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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

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50p



PREMIER'S PALACE

The leaders of communist Russia had little in common with the Romanovs — until it came to country retreats. Just look at Stalin's little dacha

Saturday Review
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PREMIER PERFUME

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet — or would it? Francesca Greenoak goes in search of scent and finds the old favourites are still best

Weekend Times
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PREMIER PERFORMANCE

As light as a VW Golf, as powerful as two Porsche 911s: is this the ultimate dream machine? Bryan Appleby looks at the street cars named desire

Saturday Review
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PREMIER PREMIÈRE

A new club, a new league, a new season: as football's costliest star puts his best foot forward, we offer a complete guide to what's in store

Pages 26, 27, 29 and 30

JOHN MANNING

BIGGEST drop in RPI for 25 years

Inflation falls to 3.7% and sends shares soaring

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR, AND JILL SHERMAN

PRICES fell in July by 0.4 per cent, the biggest monthly fall recorded in the retail prices index for 25 years. The sharp fall reduced July's annual inflation rate to 3.7 per cent from 3.9 per cent reported in June.

In the City, shares soared to their highest level for a month in response to the good RPI figures and to news of a sharp fall in inflation and encouraging retail sales in Germany, which seemed to preclude any further increase in the Bundesbank's interest rates.

However, the pound fell to another record low in the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), as several City economists noted that falling prices were the mirror image of the continuing slump in the British economy and the unremitting gloom in

the high streets. The Treasury welcomed the fall in prices as another step towards the "permanent defeat of inflation", described by John Major as the government's paramount economic goal.

Last month's 3.7 per cent annual inflation rate was equal to the best level recorded for four years, last October. Apart from that month, the latest figure was the best since March 1988, when inflation was 3.5 per cent.

Most analysts agreed that the latest fall represented a more durable trend than the downward blip last autumn. The 3.7 per cent rate recorded last October was due largely to sharp cuts in mortgage rates, and was reversed in the following few months.

The latest fall in inflation has owed little to mortgage rates; it has reflected steady and widespread reductions in

prices paid by consumers in the high streets. The most important factors were cheaper seasonal foods and clothing and footwear. July's underlying inflation, which excludes changes in mortgage payments, fell to 4.4 per cent from 4.8 per cent. Most analysts expect underlying inflation to fall below 4 per cent by the end of the year.

Anthony Nelson, economic secretary to the Treasury, said that the good news on inflation, combined with figures on Thursday that showed a small rise in manufacturing output, had given the lie to the "doom and gloom merchants". He admitted that the lower levels may have been brought about in part by the recession, which had reduced demand, but he dismissed calls from City analysts that the fight to beat inflation should now be eased. He said that the underlying rate of inflation "was too high and unacceptable".

Mr Nelson indicated, however, that zero inflation might no longer be a realistic aim. "Whether we can achieve that absolutely on target consistently is another matter." In an interview with BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* programme, Mr Nelson said the figures were "good news for businesses that have to plan, invest and compete, good news for customers in the shops and good news for pensioners on fixed incomes".

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said that inflation was still higher than in Germany, Japan, France and America. "Britain has suffered the worst fall in investment, the worst rise in unemployment, record business failures and a worse economic growth performance than any of our major competitors," he said.

The officials said Saddam had moved against the Shia Muslims last month while international attention was focused on the atrocities in Bosnia and on its own defiance of UN weapons inspectors in Baghdad. He had tightened a food and oil embargo against Shia Muslims, started draining the marshlands, and was forcibly relocating the population. He had sharply increased aerial and artillery attacks on them.

Earlier this week, America, Britain and France arranged for Max van der Stoel, a special rapporteur for the UN Human Rights Commission, to brief a private security council meeting on the plight of the Shia Muslims, and member states have since been consulting intensively on how to stop Saddam. There is said to be little appeal in the idea of creating a safe haven for the Shia Muslims in the south like that for the Kurds in the north, but much greater support for a new ban on Iraqi aircraft, similar to that applying north of the 36th parallel.

Ian Arnsdorf, of the Bankers Trust, said: "The fall in inflation is the silver-lining of the prolonged recession." He said Britain was not getting the interest rate cuts that would normally follow because sterling was tied to the mark through the ERM.

He spoke after a meeting of leaders from former Yugoslavia

Continued on page 14, col 1

for a fight with a man whose survival in power and continued defiance is an electoral embarrassment, but officials denied the charge. "If you asked whether this course of action would be justified if it were not an election year, the answer is categorically yes," said one. "Saddam is flouting the authority of the UN."

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that applying north of the

36th parallel.

The Godfather runs out of sports cash

BY RAY CLANCY

EDDIE Kulukundis, known as "The Godfather" after his generous patronage of track and field athletes, is retiring from his paternal role because of financial losses.

Over the past 20 years he has given about £1 million and as chairman of the Sports Aid Foundation has been an important force in securing sponsorship and funds for many athletes including Steve Ovett, Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell, Roger Black and Kristi Akaibusi. Air fares were paid for runners and their trainers, cars were provided, donations made towards mortgages and grants for hot weather training generously given. Up and coming stars spoke out about how they would have been unable to concentrate on improving without the kindness of their benefactor.

Now the money has run out. Heavy

losses at Lloyd's combined with the failure of his *Athletics Today* magazine have brought an era to an end. Mr Kulukundis, also known as "The Bear" because of his well-proportioned frame, lost money as a member of the unsuccessful Outhwaite syndicate and is running out of reserves.

"I have helped for as long as I could but now I am running out of money," Mr Kulukundis, 60, a shipping broker and theatre impresario, said. His wife, the actress Susan Hampshire, has also lost money as a "Lloyd's name".

Last night he indicated that he hoped to be able to continue to help some young people in a much reduced role. "I aim to help the odd junior because at that level a little money goes a long way," he said. "Looking back, I have paid for the warm weather training for a group of athletes for many years. I have paid air fares for coaches to attend events including the Olympics in Seoul

and Barcelona and the world championships in Tokyo. I always gave money where I felt it was needed, especially the less glamorous and less popular field events. I was lucky, my family built up a big business."

Mr Kulukundis was introduced to David Hemery when he attended the 1972 Olympics in Munich. Mr Hemery, who won a gold medal four years before at the Mexico Games, explained the difficulties that athletes faced and convinced Mr Kulukundis that help was needed.

In those days full-time athletes were rare. Most, like Alan Pascoe, the champion hurdler, worked and then trained in their spare time. The large companies which sponsor the top athletes were not able to give financial aid to young people and the rules on amateur status were more rigid.

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JO DAVIS 150

Athletes' tribute, page 3

Chef serves up a simple wedding

By ADAM FRESCO

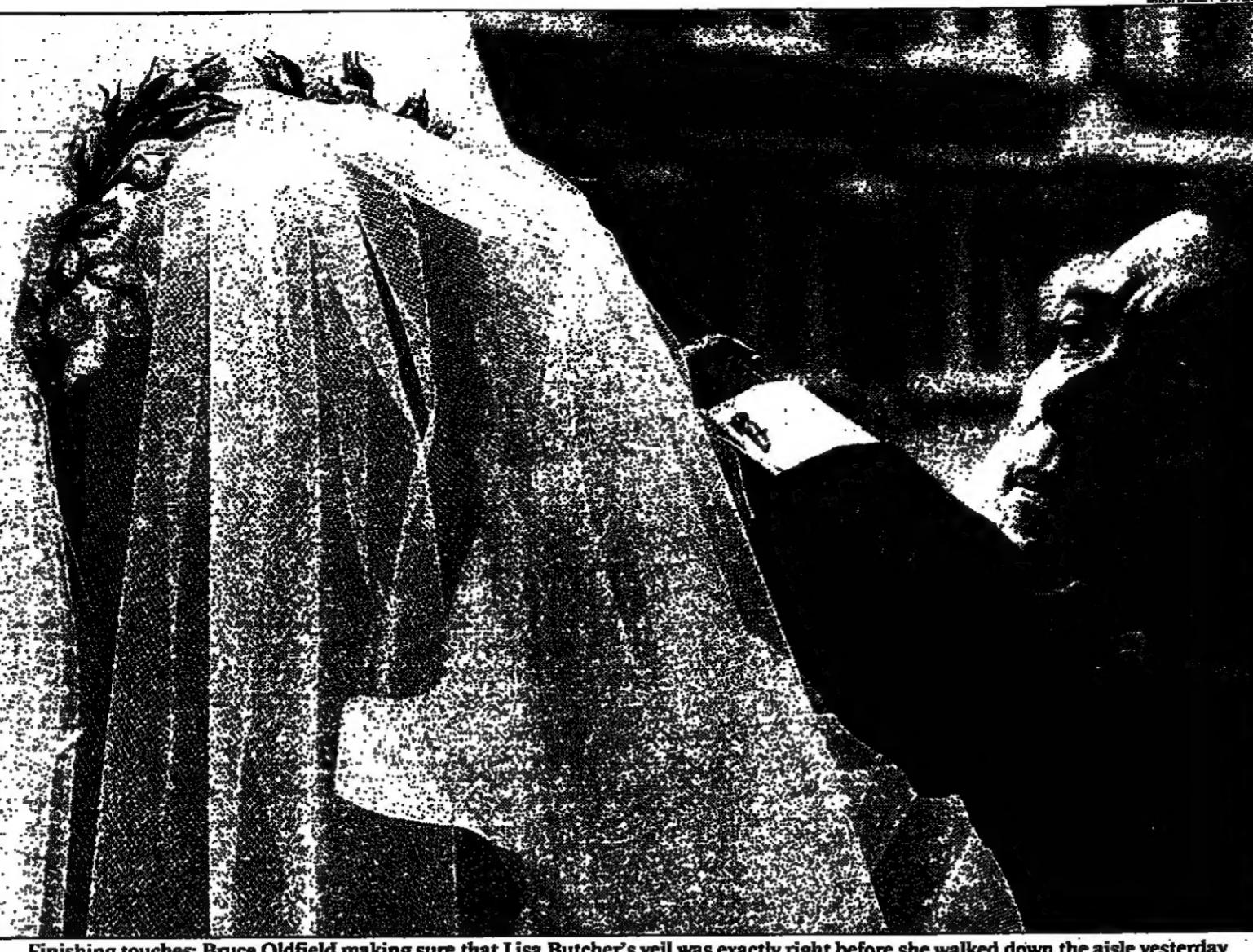
MARCO Pierre White, the enfant terrible of British chefs, married Lisa Butcher at Brompton Oratory in London yesterday. Albert Roux, the restaurateur who gave Mr White his first job in London, was best man.

The bride, 21, wore a floor-length backless white dress by Bruce Oldfield. She won the *Elle* Face of the Year competition while still at school. Her father, John, gave her away. The groom, 30, marrying for the second time, wore an Anthony Price morning suit.

The couple became engaged after a three-week courtship. Keith Floyd and Shakira Caine were among the 70 guests who celebrated afterwards at the Hurlingham Club, Fulham. They ate salmon and langoustine terrine, followed by beef en croûte and lemon tart.

A member of staff at the Hurlingham said: "It was a pretty ordinary wedding by all accounts."

Mr White, owner of Harvey's restaurant in Wandsworth, southwest London, has been described as the rudest chef in London — to both customers and staff.



Finishing touches: Bruce Oldfield making sure that Lisa Butcher's veil was exactly right before she walked down the aisle yesterday

Pilot and son killed in helicopter crash

By NICHOLAS WATT

A HELICOPTER pilot and one of his sons died yesterday when the aircraft crashed into woodlands two miles from Broadmoor hospital near Bracknell, Berkshire. Rescuers struggled through dense undergrowth to reach the wreckage.

The dead man was Captain Colin Bates, chief pilot with Air Hanson, operators of the helicopter. The boy, said to be between 10 and 12 years old, was trapped in the wreckage and died of multiple injuries before ambulance crews arrived. Two other boys and a man survived.

Doctors spent more than an hour trying to revive Captain Bates, who was said to be in his 30s, but he died from a ruptured main artery, in spite of open heart surgery performed at the scene.

One of the boys who survived, with serious head and spinal injuries, was airlifted to the Royal London hospital

in Whitechapel, east London. The two other survivors, a boy and a man, were taken to Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey. The man, believed to be 30 years old, had chest and abdominal injuries, while the child had less serious leg fractures.

The helicopter, a single-engine Bell 206 Jet Ranger, was bound from Newmarket, Suffolk, to Blackbushe airport, Hampshire, a few miles away from the accident site. It came down in dense woodland owned by the defence ministry near the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and a mile from the nearest road, in an area known as Lower Star Point near Crowthorne.

Twenty firemen, who reached the scene using the Devil's Highway, an ancient trackway through the forest, used hydraulic cutting gear to get into the twisted wreckage. The first fire crew had to leave their engine half a mile away from the crash site and walk to the wreckage, carrying cutting equipment.

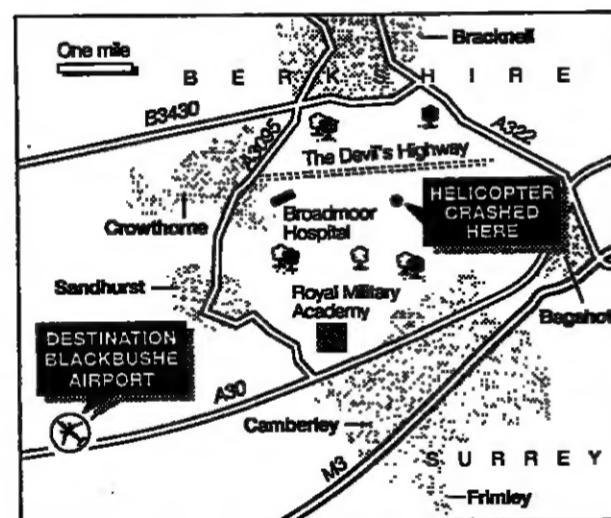
The alarm had been raised by Blackbushe air traffic controllers who picked up a Mayday broadcast from the pilot.

The five-seat aircraft, which is owned by ADT Aviation and operated by Air Hanson, is made in Canada by Bell Helicopters. Terry Arnold, of Bell, said: "It was designed in the 1960s and the US National Transportation Safety Board has described the model as the safest single engine helicopter."

Lord Hanson, chairman of Air Hanson's parent company, said in a statement last night: "Colin Bates, the chief pilot for Air Hanson, was a highly experienced helicopter pilot and had been an essential member of the team for many years. We regret this tragedy very much and our thoughts are with the victims' families."

Her husband, who cut short a business trip to Dubai, arrived home yesterday. He described the ordeal as a nightmare. "To us it does not seem like reality. You hear about it, you see it. When it happens to you, you really understand."

Anyone with any information is asked to telephone 081-593 8232 and ask for CID at Plainstow.



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THE TIMES
UNIVERSITY DEGREE RESULTS SERVICE

Throughout the summer The Times will publish full lists of all classes of degree at universities. Degree results from:

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City, Buckingham and
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will be published on Monday
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British experts put a plague on locusts

AN INTERNATIONAL research team led by British scientists has developed a powerful new weapon against the desert and migratory locust, which can devastate crops.

The environmentally benign biological pesticide is based on a fungus found in Niger, punctures the skins of locusts and grasshoppers and spreads like a cancer inside. Laboratory and limited field trials in west Africa have shown that the spray kills the pests in days, with more than 90 per cent destroyed in a single spray.

Even before they die the locusts become lethargic, losing their appetites in about three days. Recent tests in Madagascar, which at present is suffering from a locust plague, indicate that the fungal spray also kills the migratory locust.

Chris Prior, of the International Institute of Biological Control in Ascot, Berkshire, who is leading the research, said the development had implications for a wide range of insects including aphids, one of the most wide-

locusts are dying like flies from a spray-on brew that really gets under their skin, reports Nick Nuttall

I sprayed pests in Britain. There are isolates of these fungi with high virulence against nearly all insects. We are working towards finding isolates against aphids."

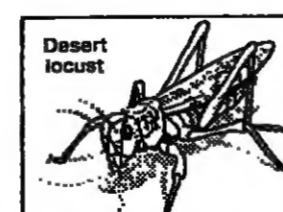
The search for an environmentally benign pesticide comes after increasing concern over the use of chemical pesticides to fight desert locusts and grasshoppers. Concern has come from the afflicted countries and the overseas development agencies of Western governments, including Britain, that help fund the institute's research. Dieldrin, the most effective chemical, has been banned in many countries where such control is needed.

Although there has been a decline in desert locust populations, there are signs they are beginning to build up again. In 1958 locusts ate

formulation suitable for spraying in hot, low-humidity and arid parts of Africa where water-based sprays would evaporate before the fungus could act. It is made of groundnut oil and kerosene, which can be delivered using ultra-low-volume spray systems available in these countries.

Because the spray rates are small — between one and two litres per hectare — and the levels of kerosene and oil are relatively tiny, the mixture causes no damage to crops or grazing land. The fungal pesticide, which can be made from raw materials in the country of use, should also cost no more and has a kill rate equal to chemical pesticides.

The scientists, who emphasize that the fungus is harmless to other animals and man, are planning full-scale trials over the next three years with one of the first sites being Mauritania. Matthew Cock, assistant director at the Ascot institute, said they had secured more than \$1 million in funds to continue the work but needed another \$1 million.



167,000 tons of grain in Ethiopia that would have fed a million people for a year.

Scientists have known for some time that a group of fungi called the Green Muscardine have members deadly to insects. Three years ago the scientists, who include members of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria and the DFPV in Niger, began searching for one that would be deadly to the desert locust.

The fungus they have isolated, *Metarhizium flavoviride*, was found on the back of a dead grasshopper in Niger. "We subsequently confirmed that it has a wide host range and will knock out several grasshoppers and the desert locust," Dr Prior said. The team has devised a

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nanny cleared in baby throwing case

A nanny was cleared yesterday of throwing a baby through the air to his mother in a fit of temper. Sheila Beeson, 29, of Thornhill, Southampton, a devout Baptist who has been involved with child care for 13 years, was found not guilty of child cruelty after a three-day trial at the Central Criminal Court. She left the court in tears and without comment.

The question occupying the jury during the trial was whether eight-week-old James Longcroft was thrown at his mother, a solicitor, or thrust into her arms. The prosecution alleged Miss Beeson threw James at Anita Longcroft at the family's home in Chelsea, southwest London, with the words "keep your damn baby". The court was told there had been a lot of tension between Miss Beeson and the Longcrofts and that she had decided to leave on the morning of the alleged incident.

Cheryl Drew, for Miss Beeson, accused the Longcrofts of being thoroughly vindictive, seeking to crush a woman whose life had been dedicated to the care of others. She produced a host of references, including one from the editor of *She* and a businesswoman from Atlanta, praising Miss Beeson's care of their babies. The Longcrofts were not in court for the verdict.

During his summing-up, Judge Denison said the case involved a clash of personalities for which both parties might be said to be responsible. He emphasised that the case did not involve systematic ill-treatment but an allegation of a single act committed in a flash of temper.

Afterwards, Samantha Harding, Miss Beeson's solicitor, said: "My client is delighted that justice has been done."

Diplomat expelled

Britain yesterday ordered the expulsion of an Iranian diplomat in retaliation for Iran's expulsion of a third secretary at the British embassy in Tehran in July. The Iranian chargé d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office last week and told that Ali Rajai, a first secretary, had three weeks to leave the country. The Foreign Office said Iran had been warned of such a measure when it ordered the expulsion of Geoffrey Brammer, whom it accused of spying. Mr Brammer is now back in Britain. The charges were made against him in June, when he was arrested by security officials in Tehran after he had been playing squash with an Iranian pilot. Last month three Iranians, none of them diplomats, were accused of unspecified intelligence activities and asked to leave.

IRA suspects still held

Five people were still being held last night by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch for questioning about IRA plans for a series of car bombs in London after the discovery of hundreds of pounds of home-made explosives, vehicles and weapons. The three men and two women were arrested earlier this week and detectives have been given extensions to continue questioning them.

Baroness Phillips dies

Baroness Phillips of Fulham, champion of many causes, died peacefully at home yesterday after a short illness, her family announced. She was 82. The widow of former Labour general secretary Morgan Phillips, who died in 1963, Lady (Norah) Phillips attended House of Lords' debates until the end of last month's session, where she was formerly a Labour government whip. She leaves a son, Morgan Phillips, 53, and a daughter, Gwyneth Dunwoody, 61. Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich. Mrs Dunwoody said: "She was a remarkable woman who contributed to the Labour party at every level. Her contribution to the House of Lords was one of eminent common sense, wit and pithiness. She was very much an asset to the House." A Westminster memorial service may be held.



The father of murdered airport chief Malcolm Olson, right, wept yesterday after hearing details of his son's killing in a Paris hotel.

The bound and gagged body of the Southampton airport director was found last February in the bath of his hotel room in Paris, where he was attending a seminar. Mr Olson, 34, who was single and lived at Hamble, Hampshire, had been strangled. There

was also evidence of blows from a blunt object, according to a report by a French pathologist. As he recorded a verdict of unlawful killing, Graham Short, the coroner, told the inquest at Eastleigh that Mr Olson's death was a "brutal, calculated killing of a respected member of this community". The dead man's father, Godfrey Olson, a former mayor of Eastleigh and Conservative council group leader, said afterwards that it was the first time he had heard the full details of his son's death.

Roundhouse sold

Equity has failed to stop the sale of the Roundhouse in north London. The actors' union wanted Camden council to reconsider a bid to make the former theatre and concert venue into a London playhouse for Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre. However, contracts have now been exchanged with Keatway Leisure, which bid £895,000 and promised to spend £40,000 to remove asbestos waste from an adjacent site. Camden's chief executive told Equity that a new bid could be considered, although Keatway's bid had been accepted subject to contract, but no new bid was made. Ian McCarty, general secretary of Equity, said yesterday: "It seems the key here has been the removal of asbestos from a site not even owned by Camden any longer, not the cultural future of the Roundhouse."

RAF bases shuffled

The RAF's new Logistics Command is to be based at two military camps in John Major's constituency, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday. About 2,500 personnel will move to the bases at RAF Wyton and RAF Brampton, either side of Huntingdon, from April 1994. The present Support Command at Brampton will be split into the Logistics Command and a branch called Personnel and Training, which will be moved to another area. Yesterday's confirmation came after a two-month consultation period with objectors and unions. The two bases will be occupied by about 950 servicemen and 1,500 civilian personnel transferred from Harrogate, Yorkshire; London; Strike Command at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire; Stanbridge, Bedfordshire; and Swanton Morley, Norfolk.

Bullion jury still out

An Old Bailey jury trying five people accused of laundering £14 million from the Brinks Mat gold bullion robbery spent a fifth night in a hotel last night. They will continue their deliberations and try to reach a verdict today. The five accused, who have variously denied handling and conspiring to handle, are: Brian Perry, 53, of Biggin Hill, Gordon Kingsdown, 48, of Westerham; Sean Savage, 48, of Westerham; and Patrick Clark, 53, and his son Stephen, 26, of Chingford, Essex.

Independent price rise

The cover price of *The Independent* will rise to 40p to 45p on Monday. The newspaper's price on Saturday will remain at 50p.

Death fume ferry to be suspended from service for repairs

BY BILL FROST

THE ferry on which a young brother and sister died earlier this week is being temporarily withdrawn from service so that the operators can carry out repairs to the sewage piping system.

Katherine Tomlins, 15, and her brother James, 12, were found dead in their bunks on the *Celtic Pride* near the Cork coast on Wednesday. They had been overcome by sewage fumes during a ten-hour passage from Swansea. The family were returning to their home in Cork after a holiday in Wales.

Improvements to the sewage system are likely to begin tomorrow or Monday. The work probably to be done in Swansea, is expected to take three days. The company was unable to rebook passengers with other operators for the weekend and decided to maintain services to avoid disruption.

An inside story of maggots and socks

BY JOE JOSEPH

IF you are what eat, and what you eat is in the fridge, it doesn't take Wingenstein to work out that you are what you keep in the fridge. Which is worrying because it means a measurable proportion of the population, possibly including your friends, may be maggots.

A new Gallup survey finds that three per cent of people in Britain store live maggots in their fridge. They are kept largely for use as fishing bait, though since more than half of us, apparently, raid the fridge late at night, a handful of maggots might be just the thing for those seeking a lightish snack but who cannot distinguish between maggots and Twinkies with their contact lenses out...

Looking on the cheery side, it must be rare to be both an alcoholic and a keen angler, because the one per cent of us who fill our fridges with nothing but alcohol would have no room left for maggots.

Fridges have become big in our lives, and although it is still rare to find those drive-in fridges you get in America, which can do everything from crush ice to cash cheques, we now panic if a power cut triggers an automatic defrost.

Marilyn Monroe liked to keep her underwear in the icebox to temper steaming Manhattan summers, which may be where some people in Britain developed a taste for chilling their socks. But iced socks are tame. If Gallup's sample is truly representative, it might be best not to poke too deeply in other's fridges.

You might sink your fingers into dead budgetgigs, frogs and snakes awaiting stufling, snake bite serum, mohair wool easier to knit with when cold, wilting wedding bouquets urine samples and car keys...

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Will Bush sink or swim?

Bush's private life came under media scrutiny, blunting an important weapon against Bill Clinton. Baker's fifth cavalry dash to the White House campaign did not muster the expected enthusiasm.

The only credible architect of a theme for



the campaign - Dan Quayle - could not get past potato jokes. And Clinton's 30% lead in the polls was holding far steeper than Dukakis's at that point in 1988. But the more troubling news for Bush is that his problems are not merely superficial...

Can George Bush survive? Andrew Sullivan, the noted political commentator, gives his verdict in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

will be issued to all UK operators.

As *Celtic Pride* began her passage to Cork, mourners gathered for the funeral of Katherine and James. A requiem mass was held at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in the family's home parish of Glounthane, Co. Cork. The announcement by Swansea-Cork Ferries, operators of the *Celtic Pride*, that the ferry was to be withdrawn from service coincided with a demand by a senior Irish politician for a vigorous criminal investigation into the affair.

Before the *Celtic Pride* was allowed to leave Swansea on Thursday night, Department of Transport inspectors told the operators to close all cabins on C deck, where the children were asphyxiated. A spokesman said that until the sewage system was examined there was still a risk to passengers.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, yesterday offered his sympathy to the parents of the dead children. A report is being prepared by marine accident investigators at the department and advice on how to avoid a repetition

A vigorous criminal investigation should be conducted and an urgent report made to the Director of Public Prosecutions so that consideration can be given to the bringing of appropriate charges against those responsible for the vessel.

Mr Shatter, justice spokesman for the Fine Gael party, said: "It should not have required a tragedy of this dimension before those responsible for this ferry took action to install a new ventilation system. Action must be taken to ensure no repetition of this event."

A vigorous criminal

investigation should be conducted and an urgent report made to the Director of Public Prosecutions so that consideration can be given to the bringing of appropriate charges against those responsible for the vessel.

Mr Shatter's call came as more passengers who had travelled aboard the *Celtic Pride* said they had warned the operators about sewage fumes last summer.

Anthony Wills and his wife were both overcome by "a ghastly smell" when they travelled aboard the *Celtic Pride*. Mr Wills, from St Albans, Hertfordshire, said: "There was a foul stench in our cabin on C deck, where the two children died this week, when we travelled on the ferry last June. My wife and I were both physically sick - we vomited. When we returned home I wrote to the managing director of Swansea Cork Ferries to complain. He never replied."

A statement yesterday from the ferry company said the owners of the *Celtic Pride*, the Polish Baltic Shipping Company, would carry out work to improve the sewage system without delay. Passengers would be advised of revised sailing schedules.

Denis Murphy, chairman of Swansea Cork Ferries, yesterday defended the *Celtic Pride*. "This is a first-class ship - one of the safest in United Kingdom waters. What happened to the children was a terrible, awful tragedy. But it was one in a million."

"It has never happened before on any ship anywhere in the world and will never happen again on this one. I can assure you of that."

BRITISH athletes last night cheered the private benefactor who has helped up-and-coming stars over the past 20 years by paying their mortgages, air fares and training expenses. They said Eddie Kulukundis was a larger-than-life figure who gave generously from his own pocket and encouraged youngsters to concentrate on the serious business of improving performance.

Alan Pascoe, the former 400m hurdler who had help with his mortgage in 1976, said: "Eddie's generosity was all we had in those days. There are a lot of athletes who have benefited from his kindness." Mr Pascoe added that he hoped Mr Kulukundis would not disappear from the athletics world.

He has brought a lot of pressure to bear through the Sports Aid Foundation and he has a lot of friends. I don't think he will be disappearing."

Other athletes helped at some time in their careers by the theatrical impresario whose family are Greek shipping brokers include Linford Christie, the Olympic 100m champion at Barcelona, Roger Black, the European 400m champion and Sally Gunnell, the 400m hurdles

gold medal winner.

He offered to pay for the accommodation for Linford Christie's coach at the Commonwealth Games in 1990 and provided air tickets for Sally Gunnell to fly to Norway several times four years ago when her coach Bruce Longden was working with the Norwegian athletic federation.

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gold medal winner.

Noel Levy, a promising teenage runner, is likely to be one of the few young people Mr Kulukundis can continue to support. At present he provides 17 cars for athletes and trainers but that arrangement will end in October.

For many years the generous gifts were known of only within the world of athletics.

Godfather retires, page 1

Protesters and trees come down to earth

BY DAVID YOUNG

PROTESTERS wept and screamed yesterday as colleagues who had stationed themselves in the branches of five lime trees to protect them from developers abandoned their vigil after a night of torrential rain and left them to their fate.

The first two of the three demonstrators dropped down to earth exhausted and hungry after 28 hours keeping the saws at bay, weeping the downpour. One of them was treated for hypothermia and needed help walking.

A third, Susan Carter, climbed higher into a neighbouring lime for another two hours as a crowd of 150 chanted a lament for the trees. Eventually she waved a white cloth in surrender. As she climbed down she was greeted by cheering and was led away by police.

Soon afterwards there were tears and cries of "murderers" as contractors cut through the first of the trees, a 90-year-old specimen, at Golden Hill, Bristol, to end an 80-day protest.

Tesco has pledged to surround the new supermarket with trees and shrubs but local environment groups have protested that the trees did not have to be uprooted for an access road.

Vespa lovers scoop off for anniversary get-together

BY RAY CLANCY

WHEN Gregory Peck won the heart of Audrey Hepburn by taking her for a million ride on a Vespa in the 1953 film *Roman Holiday*, the funny little scooter became a tribal totem for generations of youngsters who idolised the cheapest form of transport since the invention of the bicycle.

A year earlier the Vespa Club of Britain had been formed in Watford with just 30 members. The numbers peaked at 4,000 in the 1960s and this weekend up to 200 of the 500 current members will celebrate their club's fortieth anniversary at a rally in an East Sussex field.

Charles Caswell, vice-president who has been involved since the late 1950s when he bought his first Vespa as a cheap form of transport, said the event at the Bentley Wildfowl Park was for members only.

"It is a gathering of devotees. We are not like the Mods who gave scooters a bad image. We have never had a single person drunk at any of our meetings. We have rules and regulations."

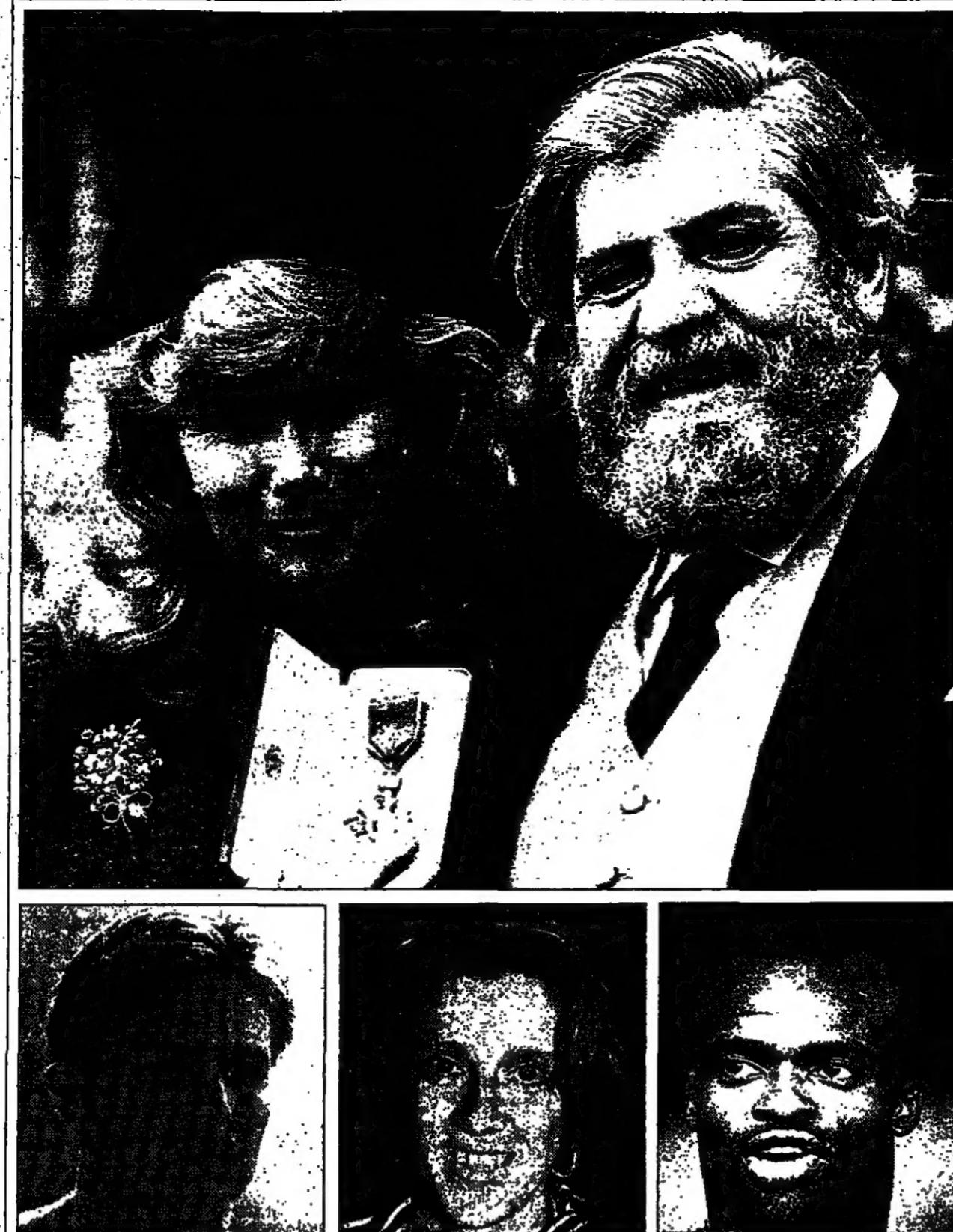
The club has been involved in raising thousands of pounds for charities over the years and last year sponsored a guide dog for the blind that has been called Vespa.

The rally on Sunday will include skill events, where riders take their machines through a series of obstacles and various other contests. The Vespa was first produced in 1946 by Piaggio, an aircraft company based in Genoa, Italy. It became hugely popular and was regarded as a zipper version of the bicycle. City dwellers in Italy

bought them in their thousands and the craze crossed the Continent.

In the 1960s British youth took to the Vespa en masse. It cost £100 new and had a springy 125cc engine. The mode dressed in sharp tailored suits turned them into fashion items and that image continues. Flashy chrome side panels were added and the foot panel was covered in carpet or fake leopard skin.

On her bike: a rider prepares to speed like the wind.



Man and the medals: above, Eddie Kulukundis with wife Susan Hampshire after receiving the OBE in 1988, and below, from left, three of the athletes he helped: Roger Black, Sally Gunnell and Kriss Akabusi

Athletes praise 'The Godfather'

Eddie Kulukundis spent up to £1 million helping young British athletes to realise their potential. Ray Clancy reports

kulukundis would not disappear from the athletics world. He has brought a lot of pressure to bear through the Sports Aid Foundation and he has a lot of friends. I don't think he will be disappearing.

Other athletes helped at some time in their careers by the theatrical impresario whose family are Greek shipping brokers include Linford Christie, the Olympic 100m champion at Barcelona, Roger Black, the European 400m champion and Sally Gunnell, the 400m hurdles

gold medal winner.

He offered to pay for the accommodation for Linford Christie's coach at the Commonwealth Games in 1990 and provided air tickets for Sally Gunnell to fly to Norway several times four years ago when her coach Bruce Longden was working with the Norwegian athletic federation.

Roger Black benefited at some time in their careers by the theatrical impresario whose family are Greek shipping brokers include Linford Christie, the Olympic 100m champion at Barcelona, Roger Black, the European 400m champion and Sally Gunnell, the 400m hurdles

gold medal winner.

Noel Levy, a promising teenage runner, is likely to be one of the few young people Mr Kulukundis can continue to support. At present he provides 17 cars for athletes and trainers but that arrangement will end in October.

For many years the generous gifts were known of only within the world of athletics.

Godfather retires, page 1

Showdown time for giant pike

BY JOHN YOUNG

LURKING somewhere in the murky waters of the lake at Alexandra Palace, north London, a giant pike is destined for a pescatory showdown. The contract is out for the capture, dead or alive, of Bumi, a predator estimated to be 4ft long and more than 30lb, which has been creating mayhem among the local fish and bird population.

Anglers who will gather for a fishing contest next Friday to raise funds for the dredging of the lake will have the added incentive of a £60 reward for ridding it of its most unpopular denizen. Pike-lovers may rest assured that every effort will be made to take her alive and transfer her to a nearby reservoir.

Her? Well, yes, probably. The female of the species, if not necessarily deadlier, is known to grow larger than the male. The National Federation of Anglers said that the size of a fish depended on its age; pike could live for 20 years or more, but generally the females had a longer life expectancy.

Bumf, whose nickname owes something to her being big and ugly, has been accused of the massacre of a Canada goose and several ducklings as well as most of the local roach population. Edwin Chambers, the park's warden, claims to have hooked her three years ago, but she snapped his line.

Exos Lucius, the largest and most voracious of Britain's freshwater fish, has earned itself a formidable reputation, though reports of unprovoked attacks on humans are largely unsubstantiated.

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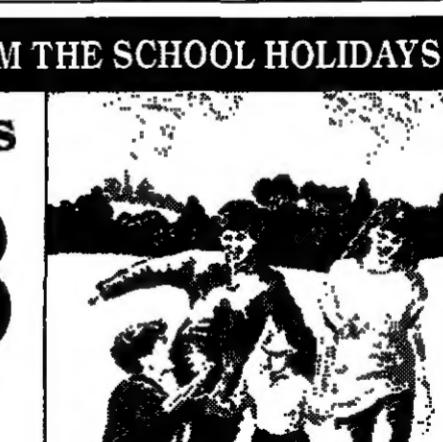
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Classroom assault test case

Injured teacher sues council for negligence

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TEACHER who suffered severe spinal injuries when she was assaulted by a ten-year-old pupil is to sue her local council for negligence. Her union is treating the legal action as a test case.

Hazel Spence-Young, 45, of Leamington, Warwickshire, has been unable to work since the classroom attack at Frederick Bird Junior School in Hillfields, Coventry, in 1989, in which she was punched on the chin. She still has to wear a neck brace. She is thought to be seeking £50,000 from the council and is also claiming damages from the Criminal Compensation Board, having already rejected an out-of-court settlement.

Mrs Spence-Young has issued a High Court writ alleging that the council was negligent in failing to warn her of the boy's history of violent behaviour or to send him to a special school. The council declined to comment on the case.

Jerry Bartlett, legal adviser

to the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers said the case would set an important precedent for teachers, who have expressed growing concern about the level of violence in schools. "It is the first time the action of an employer to safeguard a teacher from exposure to a pupil with a history of violence has been tested. This was a completely unprovoked attack and her injury was similar to whiplash injury," Mr Bartlett said.

The union has led the call for practical measures to deal with disruptive pupils, at a time when the provision of places at special schools and off-site units is being squeezed. Union members at Bishop Llandaff School, Cardiff, held a strike last year after boys accused of sexual assault were readmitted. NAS/UWT leaders often cite the Elton report commissioned by the government in 1988, which found that almost 2 per cent of teachers faced physical aggression each week. Bill Herron, assistant general secretary, said that Mrs Spence-Young had been subjected to unreasonable risk. "In some cases a problem child is placed in a special school or taught at home but the attempt is always to keep a child in a normal school environment. But there are no guidelines as to how schools should deal with the child. It is literally up to each school concerned. We allege that if this teacher had been warned she would have been able to take precautions."

The union, he said, had never been able to pursue such a case because local authorities had been able to argue that they had taken suitable precautions, such as providing psychiatric counselling. "It is very unusual for a child this young to cause such a serious injury, which could put her out of work for life, and that also has to be taken into account. We will never accept that violence and assault are part and parcel of a teacher's job."



Eyes on the prize: Nigel Mansell trimming the eye-holes in his fireproof balaclava before a practice run yesterday for tomorrow's Hungarian Grand Prix, where he could become Britain's first world champion since 1976. Mansell's task, page 24

Open government: 1

Whitehall slowly unveils its secrets

The government's inner workings are gradually being exposed. But are we getting the full picture? Michael Evans reports

THE culture of secrecy in Whitehall is beginning to show signs of decline since the pledge of more open government by the prime minister and after initial steps by William Waldegrave, the cabinet minister charged with instilling into his colleagues the need for greater openness.

However, the records that have been released recently by the Foreign Office and Home Office have revealed no hidden scandals or secrets, which might indicate to those sceptical of the new policy that only material guaranteed not to embarrass the government is likely to be declassified.

The Rudolf Hess papers and files on the "Shingle Street affair" proved damp squibs. Hess, Hitler's deputy, may have been mad but it appears he was not deceived into flying to Scotland by the secret intelligence service, nor was he an imposter. As for the residents of Shingle Street in Suffolk who were evacuated at short notice in June 1940, the released files made no mention of local rumours concerning burnt bodies on the beach or the arrival of German commandos.

At present, classified Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) papers up to 1941 are being prepared for release by the Public Record Office in Kew. A woman in the defence ministry, where the JIC wartime records are stored, is going through them to ensure that nothing is released that might embarrass individuals still alive or cause difficulties with allies.

However, according to Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, co-author of the official *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, who saw all the wartime JIC records as part of the research for the book, there is nothing in them to embarrass anyone. Sir Harry, one of the wartime codebreakers at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, said: "There were 400 JIC reports a year during the

Open government: 2



Lord Griffiths: resisted inclusion in the guide
Lord Justice Lloyd: agreed that secrecy should end

Mandarins cling to their old ways

Not all government departments are embracing the new democratic climate with gusto, Robin Oakley reports

JOHN Major's pledge in the Conservative election manifesto to open up the workings of government is bearing fruit. But it takes longer to ripen on some Whitehall branches.

The compiler of a comprehensive new guide to Whitehall and its personalities sent her standard questionnaire, for example, to members of the Security Commission, the body which, at the prime minister's request, investigates and reports on breaches of security in the public service. The letters were sent to the Cabinet Office. All came back marked "unknown at this address".

When she persevered, Lord Griffiths of Coveton, the then chairman of the commission, replied that it was inappropriate to include his commission in the Whitehall guide. This despite the fact that the government had put out a press release naming the members.

The commission, now chaired by Lord Justice Lloyd, has since relented and its structure, functions and personnel are detailed with other Whitehall departments and regulatory bodies in *The Whitehall Companion*, edited by Hilary Muggridge and to be produced next month by Dod, the specialist parliamentary publisher.

Another group that proved slow to acknowledge the change of culture embarked

upon by Mr Major and William Waldegrave, the minister in charge of the Citizen's Charter and civil service reform, was the Downing Street policy unit. At first a spokesman refused to tell Dod who did what in the unit, saying that it changed too frequently to make such an exercise worthwhile. But when Dod obtained a list from another source, Downing Street heaved a sigh and agreed to verify details.

Ms Muggridge has noted a distinct change through the year since she began compiling departmental details and civil servants' biographies. "Most departments were helpful," she says, "although enthusiasm was a bit muted in a few cases. In the main we now seem to be pushing at an open door."

The post-election change showed. The Cabinet Office had been refusing to say which senior civil servants serviced which cabinet committees, supplying only an overall list of names. Ms Muggridge kept pushing and after Mr Waldegrave had made public the names of the ministers attending the committee, the machine relented and responsibilities were listed.

Some details will remain secret. The MoD said that biographical details should not include families and clubs, and MoD biographies will not carry photographs.

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Glasgow cuts HIV rate among drug users to 2%

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE spread of HIV in Glasgow is being successfully slowed by needle and syringe exchange centres, a two-year study commissioned by the World Health Organisation indicates.

Changes in drug-user behaviour as a result of education have been documented across serial cross-sectional samples for the first time in a British city, showing that a concerted effort to reduce HIV prevalence in a high-risk group can work.

Although a causal link between needle exchange and lower HIV infection rates has not been proved, Glasgow's experience is encouraging. The city's large network of needle exchange centres was set up in 1987, when rates of HIV infection of up to 10 per cent were recorded in the north of the city, compared with a prevalence of almost zero 18 months earlier. Scientists feared an explosion of cases.

In 1990, however, the WHO study, co-ordinated by the Communicable Diseases Unit in Scotland, showed a prevalence of only 2 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman is abducted by raiders

A 41-year-old woman was bound, gagged and blindfolded by an armed gang that abducted her from her farmhouse home near Sevenoaks in Kent yesterday and dumped her 10 miles away.

The woman was asleep with her common-law husband when three masked raiders with a gun and baseball bat broke in to the farmhouse at Ide Hill at about 3.15am. A 15-year-old boy, a family friend, was also in the house.

The boy and the man were handcuffed. The gang took the woman with them as well as £1,000, three shotguns and a rifle. The woman was found safe and well at 8am at Dormans Land, Surrey. She had minor abrasions.

Fourth accused

A fourth person appeared in Barking magistrates' court yesterday charged in connection with the murder of Alison Manwaring, 24, and her father Matthew, 62. Bernard Laing, 20, of Newham, London, is charged with conspiracy to prevent the course of justice. The victims' bodies were found in a shallow grave after disappearing from their house in Barking, east London, on April 23.

Trunk road fees

Private developers will have to pay more towards trunk road improvements under proposals announced yesterday by John MacGregor, the transport secretary. Whereas now just one developer pays for improvements if their scheme increases traffic, under the proposals costs will be shared with others. Mr MacGregor said: "The new system will spread the burden more evenly."

Official named

Martin Eastac, 44, a director of the National Audit Office, is to be chief executive of the new Local Government Commission, which will review municipal structures in England over the next five years, it was announced yesterday. Mr Eastac was chief executive of Harlow District Council in Essex before working as a management consultant. He joined the audit office three years ago.

No wrongdoing

David Bookbinder, former leader of Derbyshire County Council, was cleared of any wrongdoing yesterday after an inquiry into his use of a council-owned limousine to travel to Heathrow airport in April on a private trip to Russia. He stepped down as council leader in January.

Murder charge

Martin Vaughan, 26, of Reading, appeared in court yesterday charged with stabbing two men to death. Kevin McGrath, 28, also of Reading, was accused of causing grievous bodily harm. Both were remanded in custody by city magistrates.



Drain on resources: a dried-out stretch of the Lambourn at East Garston, Berkshire. Demand from leisure facilities is straining overstretched water supplies

Water rules to be tightened as rivers dry out

SOMETHING strange has happened to the upper Lambourn in Berkshire. Stretches of the chalk stream, once home to moorhens, kingfisher and trout, have disappeared.

Local concern as the spring-fed waterway, like many across the South, has dried up and in places vanished, was fuelled by a decision by the National Rivers Authority to grant a Japanese golf course project a licence to extract three million gallons of water from the river during the winter.

Now a racing stables is asking to pump 10 million gallons from underground aquifers in the Lambourn valley to irrigate its gallops.

The Lambourn is just one of southern England's famous chalk streams under threat by four years of drought. The NRA said that in contrast to its sister river draining the Berkshire downs, the Pang, one of 40 waterways identified earlier this year by the NRA as dangerously low due to excessive abstraction, the Lambourn

When people turn off hosepipes only to see golf courses being sprayed, emotions are sure to run high. Louise Hidalgo reports

is one of the least abstracted rivers in the Thames region.

The 33 abstraction licences from the river and the underground chalk aquifers that feed it — most for agricultural use but two for golf courses — and Thames Water's licence to pump 7.7 megawatts a day for public supply, account for only 4 per cent of the effective rainfall into the river valley in an average year. This compares with 40 per cent from the Pang, a figure that the NRA, in negotiation with Thames Water, has reduced to prevent the river suffering further.

Many residents along the Lambourn's banks are angered at applications for abstraction licences for golf courses and racing gallops. They come as little more than luxuries at a time when people are being asked to conserve water. "Is this the thin end of the wedge?" asked one former district councillor at a public meeting in Newbury where more than 200 people gathered to have their concerns answered by the NRA.

The NRA has made it clear that Shi Tenoji, and Shadwell Stables if it is granted the licence it wants to extract from a borehole on the Lambourn Downs to water its gallops, are to be tightly regulated. Water can be drawn only during the winter months, and then only if the river's flow is high enough, which it has not been for the past two winters.

The issue has stirred strong feelings locally. "It is a highly emotive subject when people try not to overuse hosepipes on their garden but walk a few yards to see a golf course being sprayed," said Marion Pat-

erson, who lives near where the Shi Tenoji golf course is being built.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England has made public its concern that demand for leisure facilities and golf courses in southern England, where dozens of applications for new courses landscaped with lakes are before planners, is straining stretched water supplies.

According to monitoring by Friends of the Earth of applications over the past 18 months for abstraction licences, at least 99 have

been for the irrigation of golf courses, almost half of them in the Thames region. Liam Stupple, of the environmental pressure group, said:

"The problem the NRA faces is that it cannot distinguish on moral grounds between use of water for a golf course and for agricultural irrigation."

Planning authorities are also beginning to question whether they should not be given more powers to turn down applications on the grounds of water supply. "At the moment it does seem a

case of the right and left hand not working in tandem," Chris Watts, assistant director of development services for Newbury District Council, said.

□ The Isles of Scilly celebrated the defeat of the drought yesterday with the opening of Britain's first desalination plant.

Three years of drought, and an annual influx of tourists that can treble the 1,500 population, had reduced the islands' supply of natural water to an all-time low. Council officials had feared it could run out by the summer's end, and have twice declared an official drought.

Although water charges are likely to rise by a third, the technology should provide a third of peak summer needs. From today the £265,000 Dutch-supplied plant will blend 150,000 gallons of seawater a day. During winter months, when demand is reduced, it will run at half capacity.

Prisoners gain lifeline in seven hours of freedom

Town visits allow inmates to maintain close contact with their families, reports Richard Ford

TODAY the white wire mesh gates at Britannia jail in Norwich will open and a group of inmates will walk out to spend seven hours away from the routine of prison life.

Robert, 34, serving a 12-month sentence for actual bodily harm, will be met by his day friend and will spend the day at home in the city, visiting his mother and seeing friends. Other prisoners will spend the day wandering round Norwich or travelling to Great Yarmouth as part of a scheme of town visits started four months ago.

The aim is to help prisoners maintain relationships with their families by allowing them close, regular contact outside the prison visiting room. It is hoped that maintaining relationships will make it easier when an inmate is released and will cut the risk of reoffending.

Stephen Honey, head of Britannia prison, said: "This will be a gradual trend in the prison system because the Woolf enquiry stressed the importance of a system that allows prisoners to maintain links with family and friends." He said strict rules were essential to ensure the scheme was not abused, adding that the public would not accept more serious offenders being given a town visit.

William, a 29-year-old father of two who is serving two years for fraud, said that during prison visits many prisoners were reluctant to express their feelings or talk about family matters because of a lack of privacy.

"You don't want somebody else to overhear you expressing your feelings. It's embarrassing to have to talk about your emotions in front of other prisoners. The result is that often a visit is frustrating and leads to rows," he said. "Some people go into jail and within two or three months they have lost their wives and girlfriends because contact is so limited."



New hope: a prisoner looks out to a world beyond bars

On his first town visit last weekend, William and his wife booked into a small hotel where the proprietor let them use a microwave to heat a spicy African-style stew that had been brought from his house in Clapham, southwest London. "Of course the physical side of the relationship is important and town visits make that possible, but they also help because you no longer focus on your release date. The most important date for both of you is the next town visit."

Some prisoners who have been on town visits say their families have put pressure on them to keep out of trouble. Prisoners who are eligible for the scheme know that any breach of prison discipline or rules will result in the cancellation of a town visit. "It's a great incentive to keep your nose clean. For the lads on a longish sentence it helps break up the monotony of being inside," said Robert.

The prison staff is not convinced that the scheme has been a big improvement in prisoner behaviour, though they say there is more compliance about going to work and getting up in the morning. Neither has the scheme had much effect on younger inmates, many of whom have failed to take up the opportunity. The older inmates say this is because most of their friends are in the jail anyway. Prison staff suggest that younger inmates do not think beyond the next 24 hours and continue to get into trouble, making them ineligible.

Low-risk category D prisoners can apply for town visits after two months in jail if there are satisfactory discipline reports, while category C prisoners can apply after four months. Higher category prisoners cannot apply.

10p buys a 'fix' for beermat addicts

BY DAVID YOUNG

A SCRUMMAGE of collectors at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday demonstrated that what a glass is placed on can be just as addictive as its contents.

Members of the British Beermat Collectors Society, many attired in the type of anorak and T-shirt favoured by train-spotters and most displaying the type of girth associated with the brewing business, met to compare, swap and sell prized examples of the beermat printer's art.

However, despite a membership of 4,000 and with collectors coming from Scandinavia and Germany to yesterday's get-together, beermat collecting remains a hobby for the true amateur enthusiast.

A bid of 10p would have been enough to secure one of the older mats on sale yesterday. Top prices, said Gerry David, a family welfare court officer from Cardiff who organised yesterday's meeting, seldom exceeded £5.

"Most people drift into the hobby because they pick up beermats to pass on to people that they know are already collectors," she said. "That is how I started and now I have 15,000 cluttering up my home."

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Edinburgh festival finds new talent on its doorstep

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PAST Edinburgh International Festivals have celebrated the unjustly ignored artistic achievements of places such as Czechoslovakia, South America, Japan and Spain. The new director, Brian McMaster, has found this year's missing culture on his doorstep.

Members of the British Beermat Collectors Society, many attired in the type of anorak and T-shirt favoured by train-spotters and most displaying the type of girth associated with the brewing business, met to compare, swap and sell prized examples of the beermat printer's art.

"A year ago I had no idea of the wealth and breadth of Scottish music," Mr McMaster, formerly the managing director of Welsh National Opera, said. "I heard some old tapes, then BBC Scotland broadcast a series of 32 two-hour programmes dedicated to it which opened my eyes and ears, and I decided to give it a proper place in the festival."

Mr McMaster hopes Scotland's neglected musical heritage will help the three-week season, which opens on Sunday, break the 70 per cent box office barrier, which has been an increasingly elusive target. Last year's 67 per cent meant a £179,000 loss that has to be made up by 1994.

Home-grown music is one of the three main elements of the 1992 festival, the others being a reappraisal of the life and work of Tchaikovsky to mark the centenary of the composer's death next year, and the plays of Harley Granville Barker and C.P. Taylor.

The Scottish music programme ranges from Celtic

festival is benefiting by £60,000 from the European Arts Festival, which is ensuring performances by the Pina Bausch Dance Ensemble.

Other highlights will be performances by the Mark Morris Dance Group of the United States and a concert performance of Tchaikovsky's rarely seen opera, *The Oprichnik*.

Frank Dunlop, the last director, made a bitter attack on the Edinburgh Fringe last year, describing it as a "Tower of Babel of the arts", over-endowed with stand-up comedians and controlled by publicists and with too little drama.

Mr McMaster disagrees. "The Fringe is a great asset to the festival, but it's only as good as its audience. Stand-up comedy is the popular form of entertainment, and the major stand-up comics are in Edinburgh."

Famous names on the Fringe include Eleanor Bron, Miles Kington and Paul Merton, and there are almost 11,000 performances of more than 1,000 shows, compared with 248 performances of 97 projects in the festival proper. The theatre offers 249 world premieres, 23 Shakespeare productions and a new play by Neil Innes.

Down-and-outs ban, page 14
Saturday Review, page 26



McMaster: "discovered" Scottish music last year

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Hardline Marchais scraps keystone of Leninist faith

THE French Communist Party, one of the last bastions of Stalinist orthodoxy, has been thrown into turmoil after Georges Marchais, its seemingly invincible leader, abandoned a pillar of the faith. To add insult to injury, he did it in New York, the cradle of capitalism.

M Marchais, whose party still commands the support of two million French voters, took the momentous step of declaring that he was not overly attached to the principle of democratic centralism, the doctrine of command from the top downards enshrined as *de rigueur* by the Comintern in 1920. The doctrine, which ensured unanimity in all decisions, would soon be jettisoned in favour of something more pluralist. M Marchais told an audience of 100 at Columbia University.

To outsiders, squabbles over Leninist doctrine might seem about as useful as discussing the ten on the titanic half-way down to the seabed. However, M Marchais's unexpected pronouncement made headlines in Paris and set the cat

The leader of France's Communists, on an American visit, has upset comrades at home by abandoning democratic centralism, writes Charles Bremer

among the pigeons at the Place Colonel Fabien, the fortress-like seat where the French politburo spends so much of its time purging dissidents.

"He cannot do that without calling a congress," spluttered Jean-Pierre Brard, the Communist mayor of Montreal, who was upset over the biggest bombshell to hit the party since it abandoned the concept of the dictatorship of the proletariat in 1976. That event prompted mass resignations, among them that of Louis Althusser, the late philosopher who strangled his wife soon afterwards.

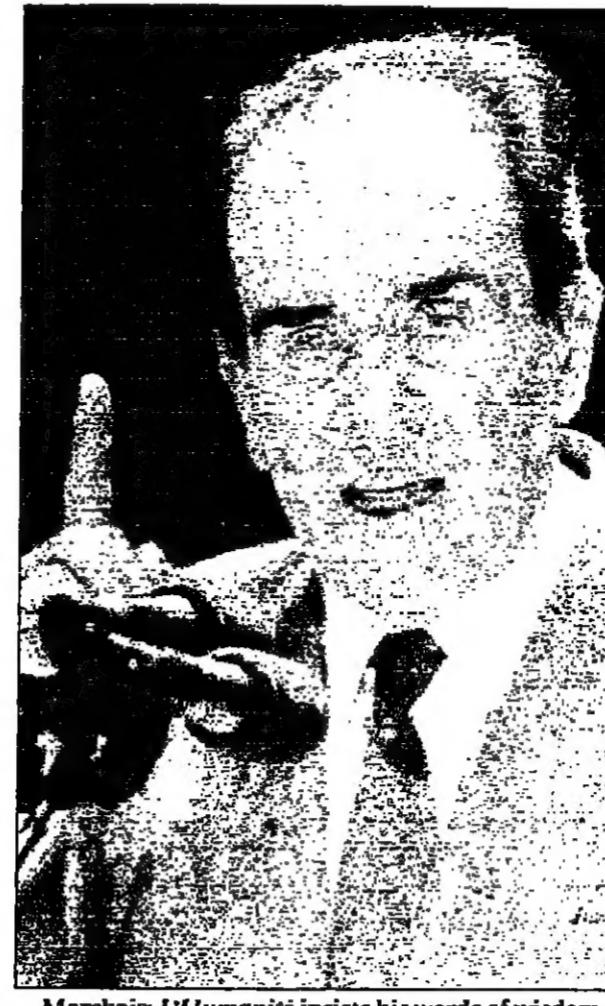
"He does not really mean it," Jack Ralite, a former minister and reformist outcast from the leadership, said. True to the old *Pravda*-style form, *L'Humanité*, the party daily, fulminated against the

bourgeois media for distorting the words of its secretary-general and Ramsey Clark, the eccentric former attorney-general in the Lyndon Johnson administration.

He has also, according to *L'Humanité*, acquainted the US media with his party's positions. *Liberation* mischievously reported that "the US media" consisted of a trainee reporter from an Alabama newspaper. M Marchais's meeting with Mr Hall, the master of a party of 15,000, was also hailed as historic.

Until last year, M Marchais spent his summers in dachas in the Crimea or Romania, a guest of the local comrades. His visit to New York and Washington came after the easing of US visa rules. Like many current and former French communists, M Marchais had long been banned as a danger to Uncle Sam's shores.

For the secretary-general and his flock, a church that has lost its Rome, the mockery of the bourgeois media is just another test on the long and ever lonelier journey towards the inevitable victory of the proletariat.



Marchais: *L'Humanité* insists his words of wisdom have been distorted by the bourgeois media

Improving harvest reaps farmers' ire

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AFTER several months of doomsday predictions about this year's harvest, the key grain-producing republics of the former Soviet Union are gradually admitting that it will be better than expected and could break all records in Kazakhstan at least.

With more than 40 per cent of the harvest complete, Russia is expected to produce between 94 million and 96 million tonnes, 5 per cent up on last year. Ukraine is expected to produce 40 million tonnes and Kazakhstan 30 million.

But farmers are complaining about the purchase prices set by the state and about the government's management of agriculture. An organisation called the Farmers' Collective Action Movement recently staged a series of demonstrations in cities across Russia protesting that the whole agricultural sector was on the verge of financial collapse.

The government, in fact, seems caught between three different interest groups: the producers, the collective farm chairmen and the central agricultural bureaucracy. Most of

the producers just want the best price for their grain and believe that time is on their side. A large number of collective farm chairmen fear that the whole system of collective farms will shortly be dismantled, and fear the loss of their power. These are the people behind the action movement, which is calling for more central subsidies.

The rambling central bureaucracy, hardly changed from Soviet days, seems divided between those who see their livelihood vanishing if the market takes over and those who genuinely worry that, without an effective system of central purchasing, Russia could starve.

So far, the Russian government has been allowing the commodity exchanges to dictate prices, following as closely as it must to attract grain into state granaries. The rest of the central bureaucracy has largely been left to panic on the sidelines, including the security ministry (former KGB), which said last week that up to a third of the harvest could be lost if it were not in state stores.

NEWSIN BRIEF

Georgian minister released

Tbilisi: Opiro, released Roman Gvatsadze, the Georgian interior minister, but kept other officials hostage in Abkhazia, and ten people died when Georgian troops moved into the rebellious region, officials said.

The new violence was the most serious problem to face the former Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, since he became leader of his native Georgia in March. He said that he had no choice but to send troops into Abkhazia, an area of 100,000 people in western Georgia that declared independence last month.

Militant supporters of the former president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, took 12 of Georgia's fading police officials hostage on Tuesday. The hostages reportedly were being held in the village of Kohora in the Gali region of Abkhazia, about 170 miles northwest of Tbilisi. (AP)

Talks stalled

Riga: Talks about the withdrawal of the Russian military from Latvia were deadlocked after the Latvian government rejected demands made by Moscow, including a call for a change in Latvia's proposed restrictive legislation on citizenship for Russians.

EuroMP dies

Bastia: Yves Briant, 38, an independent French politician and European MP, was killed with his wife and son when a plane taking them to a meeting in Ajaccio on the forthcoming referendum on the Maastricht treaty crashed into a mountain in Corsica. (AFP)

Rockets fired

Moscow: Azerbaijani forces fired two salvos of Grad rockets from a glider into the heart of Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian enclave, killing and wounding an unspecified large number of people. Tass reported. (AFP)

Island isolated

Rome: The Italian government has banned all shipping within 1 mile of the prison island of Pianosa, where convicted Mafia gangsters were sent last month. Anyone fishing near the island faces up to two years in jail. (Reuters)

Hands lost

Elche, Spain: Two people lost hands and 180 suffered other injuries when gangs of youths threw illegal fireworks at a traditional fiesta in southeastern Spain, doctors and police said. Six people were being treated in hospital for burns and eye injuries. (Reuters)

Chain reaction

Lisbon: A Portuguese man, 28, who was seen by police snatching a gold necklace from an elderly lady and then swallowing it, is to undergo surgery to recover the chain after three days of laxatives failed to shift it. The *Publico* newspaper reported. (Reuters)

Joke falls flat

Athens: Coca-Cola will apologise to Greece for an "insulting" Italian advertisement showing the Parthenon's marble columns tapered like the drink's familiar bottle, said Carlos Caselli, manager of the company's Greek office. (AP)

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Bush assured of the fireworks but searches for the fizz



Barbara Bush: shrewd political operator

JUST months ago the American television networks were planning minimal coverage of next week's Republican convention. Not any more. They are now sending huge teams and all their top anchors. With President Bush in parous straits, his party riven by ideological disputes and delegates in a state of panic, they anticipate five days of high political drama to match Houston's torrential August thunderstorms.

The Houston astrodome has been hung with 350 giant Stars and Stripes. A quarter of a million red, white and blue balloons (113 for every delegate) are ready to drop from the heavens, and the grand finale will be a spectacular fireworks display inside the cavernous 15-storey stadium. The display guarantees that Mr Bush will leave Houston next Friday with a resounding

With Bill Clinton leading in 28 states, the president will face a daunting balancing act at the Republican convention, Martin Fletcher writes

bang, but what he really needs most desperately is one enormous bounce.

Two new national polls yesterday showed him trailing Bill Clinton by 18 and 19 points. One also gave the Democrats a 14-point overall advantage in this November's congressional races, threatening a wholesale ejection of Republicans from House and Senate. Others show the Arkansas governor now leading in 28 states, including the president's adopted home of Texas, and Mr Bush in one.

No sitting president has ever recovered from such a dismal position. Mr Bush knows he has to transform a

potentially joyless coronation into an electric send-off for the autumn campaign with a performance surpassing even his 1988 acceptance speech. If not, he should start planning his Kennebunkport retirement, only the fourth incumbent this century to be denied re-election.

The convention organisers have pulled out all the stops.

Barbara Bush, outpouring Hillary Clinton by 63 points to 34, to give an unusual First Lady's address on family values. The "Gipper", Ronald Reagan, 81, has been coaxed from his California retirement to rally the faithful, though the Great Communi-

cator may simply inspire unhappy comparisons. Gerald Ford will speak, so will Pat Robertson, the evangelist. Patrick Buchanan, who savaged Mr Bush during the primaries, will also exhort the party to pull together.

By contrast

Dan Quayle, the vice-president, will be kept largely out of sight. Mr Quayle is not only trailing Al Gore, Mr Clinton's running mate, by 63 points to 19 in personal popularity, but his old nemesis, James Baker, is now Mr Bush's omnipotent new campaign chief.

The Clinton-Gore ticket, expanded to include Hillary Clinton, will be shamelessly painted as the most liberal and subversive of American values in living memory, as all previous Democratic tickets have been. "In the days ahead, when the Republicans raise their old flag of fear, you tell them no, thanks, this time

we are going to vote on our hopes," Mr Clinton exhorted supporters this week. If the attacks become too personal, the Democrats intend to raise the business activities of Mr Bush's sons.

The president's real task is to provide a compelling vision for a second term that will unite the warring factions of his own party. Richard Nixon's speechwriter, Ray Price, whose last presidential assignment was his boss's Watergate resignation speech, has been given that overwhelming responsibility and few can envy him.

The extent of Republican disarray was vividly underscored on Thursday when Mrs Bush declared that there should be no mention of abortion or homosexuality — "personal things" — in the party manifesto. That directly contradicted her husband's professed support for a constitu-

tional ban on abortions, and did so on the very day the party's platform committee completed a manifesto specifically demanding such a ban.

Behind her benign, grandmotherly appearance, Mrs Bush is a shrewd political operator. Polls show more than half of all Republicans, let alone the wider electorate, oppose a constitutional ban.

Mr Bush was appealing to moderate voters to offset a platform committee packed with conservatives and Christian fundamentalists that has produced the most socially conservative Republican manifesto yet (members disputed whether it should say America or Jesus was the "last best hope for man").

That is the juggling act that Mr Bush must perform on a grander scale in Houston. He must placate and cement a conservative base which views him with extreme suspicion,

Spoiling for fight, page 1

America to fly UN troops into Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

UNITED Nations guards for humanitarian relief agencies are expected to arrive in Somalia within a fortnight after the American government offered a military transport plane to carry them to Mogadishu and the United Nations vowed to bypass its bureaucracy to speed up the deployment.

The UN Security Council, stung by criticism of its slow response to the civil war and famine in Somalia, accepted the American offer late on Thursday. Li Daoyu, China's UN ambassador and security council president, sent a letter to the 15 council member states saying he would approve the operation by late last night unless there were objections. His spokesman said there would be no need to adopt a council resolution to send in the 500 troops and

the troops are expected to come from Pakistan and will be responsible for security at Mogadishu's harbour and international airport as well as guarding convoys of lorries taking food to relief agencies' distribution points. They are likely to be under the command of Brigadier-General Amtia Shaheen, the head of the UN military observer unit already in Mogadishu. He is an experienced Pakistani combat commander who has impressed observers with his swift grasp of the chaotic situation in Somalia where, as a result of 19 months of civil war and drought, at least 1.5 million people are starving.

UN officials hope that the limited deployment of troops to protect relief supplies will be extended to other ports, such as Kismayo, Bosasso, which has been the scene of recent heavy fighting between Issak tribesmen and Islamic fundamentalists, and Berbera, and along the main routes to the interior of the country. "If these ports could be established as a beach-head for a massive relief operation we might be able to make a real difference," said a senior UN official yesterday. Muhammad Sahnoun, the UN special envoy to Somalia and a retired Algerian diplomat, favours dividing the country into four operational zones for distributing food aid and the administration of longer-term development projects.

Seeds and tools are desperately needed by Somali farmers before the rains come in October. Agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross are anxious to get agricultural activities going before the population becomes dependent on food aid. Almost all the farmers have lost their livestock, seeds and equipment to looters.

In Kismayo, the Red Cross has been conducting an agriculture and livestock survey and the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) has been trying to rebuild wells and irrigation systems before the rains. "It is vital that we get people back on their feet so they can plant this year," said Nur Hussein, a Kenyan water engineer with Unicef. "If they don't they will have their hands out for food for years to come."

The couple have acted together in eight of Allen's past 13 films, including *Husbands and Wives*, which opens in September. Allen is seeking

custody of three of the youngest children, including their biological son, Satchel, aged 4, but the details of the suit will not be known until a court hearing later this month.

By his own account, the role of parent did not come easily to Allen, 56, the actor-director whose portrayals of psychological insecurity and intense relationships seem to reflect his own life. "She is surrounded by kids and pets," he once said of Mia Farrow. "I live by myself across the park. I don't have to be there when the diapers are changed or anything really awful happens."

Mia Farrow, 47, has been married twice, to Frank Sinatra and André Previn (with whom she had three children, and adopted a further three).

Woody Allen's spokesman said yesterday: "He has never discussed his private life in public and does not wish to begin doing so now."

On the rare occasions he has talked about his relationship with Ms Farrow, Allen painted a picture of deep mutual affection — and distinct incompatibility between the

ways they liked to live. Allen's film *Alice* is a love-paean to Ms Farrow and a relationship between two conflicting personalities. "She's brought a completely different, meaningful dimension to my life," he once said, "yet the two of us have so little in common that it always amazes us."

Allen has also been through two divorces. His relationship with Ms Farrow is said to have foundered over her wish to adopt two more orphaned and handicapped children, a move reportedly opposed by Allen.

The apparent break-up of the Allen-Farrow *ménage* may signal the end of a great New York institution, but the remarkably fruitful professional relationship between the couple may yet survive. Last week Allen revealed that the couple would play husband and wife in his next film, *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, which is due to begin production next month.

Allen's spokesman said the casting of Ms Farrow was now probably "doubtful", in the circumstances, but in the lives of this pair, stranger things have happened.

The company, which is behind the macho "Marlboro men" advertisements, has been sharply criticised by anti-smoking groups, which oppose any type of target advertising, and by some gay rights activists. "I don't see how this can be construed as any kind of victory for gay rights," a spokeswoman for Lambda Legal Defense Funds, a homosexual lobby group, told the *New York Post*. Supporters of gay rights have pointed to an apparent contradiction in the company's policy of supporting Senator Jesse Helms, one of the most outspoken opponents of homosexuality, and the marketing appeal to gay smokers.

About one in four adult Americans smoke, but the incidence of smoking among homosexuals is slightly higher. Don Tuthill, publisher of *Genre*, a fashion magazine for homosexual men, will defend the advertisements as an indication of the growing importance of homosexuals in American society. And Steve Miller, of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation, said yesterday: "This brings gay into the mainstream of consumers."

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New Yorkers took the news personally, and with great sadness. The couple are regarded by many as mascots for the city: private, funny, tortured. Their unusual relationship (they have been lovers for more than 13 years, but have never lived together) seemed to reflect the eccentricity of New York itself.

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Rafsanjani reforms attacked

Ayatollah mobilises Islamic militants

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

THE uneasy partnership of the past three years between President Rafsanjani of Iran and Ayatollah Khomeini, the spiritual and temporal leader of Iranian Islam, may be about to end.

After the bloody riots of May and June in the shanty towns surrounding big cities, the Rafsanjani government has been under attack from the ayatollah and the radicals who oppose his economic austerity programmes and his attempts to improve relations with the West.

The state-owned newspaper, *Kayhan*, described the cabinet last week as "the main perpetrator of sin in society". This week the *Tehran Times*, hitherto a presidential mouthpiece, came out in favour of the ayatollah's hardline foreign policy. From now on, the ayatollah had announced, only the most militant revolutionaries would be sent abroad as diplomats.

Only four months ago it seemed that Mr Rafsanjani

was well on course to becoming Iran's undisputed leader. He had manipulated the parliamentary elections to bar most of the incumbent radical deputies from standing again, on the pretence that they were not sufficiently versed in Islamic principles. Then the riots flared and the government resorted to repression, including the execution of ring-leaders, to quell them.

The ayatollah, alarmed at

the possibility of being reduced to a figurehead at the hands of Mr Rafsanjani and a compliant parliament, was emboldened. He decided to reassert himself as the formal successor to Ayatollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic state.

On July 13, Ayatollah Khomeini addressed a gathering of Revolutionary Guards and other militants. He said that he would appoint the Basiji militia, the most extreme branch of the guards and the successors to the teenage "human wave" volunteers of the Iran-Iraq war, as "the guardians of the divine values of the revolution". He exhorted the rest of the population to watch one another for signs of deviation from the Islamic codes of behaviour.

Many semi-governmental revolutionary organisations set up during the life of Khomeini joined the bandwagon, and a senior ayatollah, Ahmad Jannati, whose turn it was to deliver Tehran's Friday prayer sermon, attacked every tenet of Mr Rafsanjani's proposed reforms. He pledged that Iran would never allow "the return of the liberals to positions of influence". The spectre of a Mao-style cultural



Rafsanjani: aimed to improve Western ties

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands trying to flee Kabul

Kabul: Tens of thousands of people tried to flee from the Afghan capital, taking advantage of a pause in fighting between government forces and rebel Mujahidin.

The respite came after days of intense rocket and artillery attacks on Kabul by forces loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-i-Islami, in which more than 1,000 people were killed or wounded. Officials said the government had limited its counter-offensive to allow rebel forces to pull back from areas east of the city, but would resume the push later.

People were trying to get out by road to the north and east. But the road to Jalalabad in the east was still closed about three miles from the city for people's safety, the defence ministry said. (AFP)

Spy blamed

Sydney: A Fretilin rebel official, Constance Pinto, working as a spy for Indonesia orchestrated the protest in East Timor last November which provoked a massacre by the army, an Australian report to the International Commission of Jurists says. (Reuters)

Li plans visit

Hanoi: Li Peng has confirmed that he will go to Vietnam this year, the first Chinese prime minister to do so since 1971. A dispute over the Spratly Islands and their potential deposits of offshore oil has been raising tensions between Beijing and Hanoi. (Reuters)

Islamic move

Kota Bharu, Malaysia: The ruling Muslim fundamentalist party in the Malaysian state of Kelantan is planning to make it Islamic before the next general election, which is due in 1995, said Fadzil Muhammad Noor, the leader of the group. (Reuters)

Airbus clue

Kathmandu: The crew of a Thai Airways Airbus that crashed into a mountain in Nepal two weeks ago, killing the 113 people on board, had difficulty lowering the wing flaps when they were preparing to land, according to investigators. (Reuters)

Sheath keepers

Tokyo: If Japan decides to join the peacekeeping force in Cambodia, its troops will be armed with condoms. Aids has been added to the official list of hazards facing Japanese troops serving abroad for the first time since the second world war. (Reuters)



Showing the flag: Pakistani girls in folk costume singing patriotic songs at a ceremony in Islamabad yesterday to celebrate 45 years of independence

Saddam in trouble as sanctions bite

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN RUWEISHEH ON THE JORDANIAN-IRAQI BORDER

FOR the first time since sanctions were imposed against Iraq two years ago this month, they are showing signs of taking their toll of the economy and could threaten the stability of President Saddam Hussein's regime.

A few weeks ago this desert crossing point was Iraq's economic gateway to the world, through which hundreds of lorries a day carried everything from UN-approved food and medicine to steel girders and spare parts banned under international law.

Today, however, the customs lot is nearly empty, as a dozen lorries carrying cigarettes, cooking oil and meat are inspected by Jordanian officers before being allowed to cross. "In May we had about 500 trucks crossing here every day, then the number dropped to about 200 last month and now there are only 50 to 60," said Aziz Absoul, the chief customs officer, who has been given strict instructions from Amman to ensure that only approved items are allowed into Iraq.

The change in Jordan's policy, which since the start of the Gulf conflict had turned a

blind eye to illegal exports to Baghdad, can be traced to June when Robert Gates, visiting CIA director, pressured Amman into halting its contraband trade, estimated at a third of all goods banned to Iraq.

The Jordanian customs have become strict and strict on opening and inspecting everything, even medicine from Britain which had no authorisation. "Recent days, a shipping agent at Amman airport, said, "We have to take us two days to clear for Baghdad, we now wait two weeks."

The impact of this move has been compounded by Saddam's response, caused by steady devaluation of the Iraqi dinar. His defence forces have prominent Iraqi business with at least 42 aircraft hanged from lamp posts "profiteering".

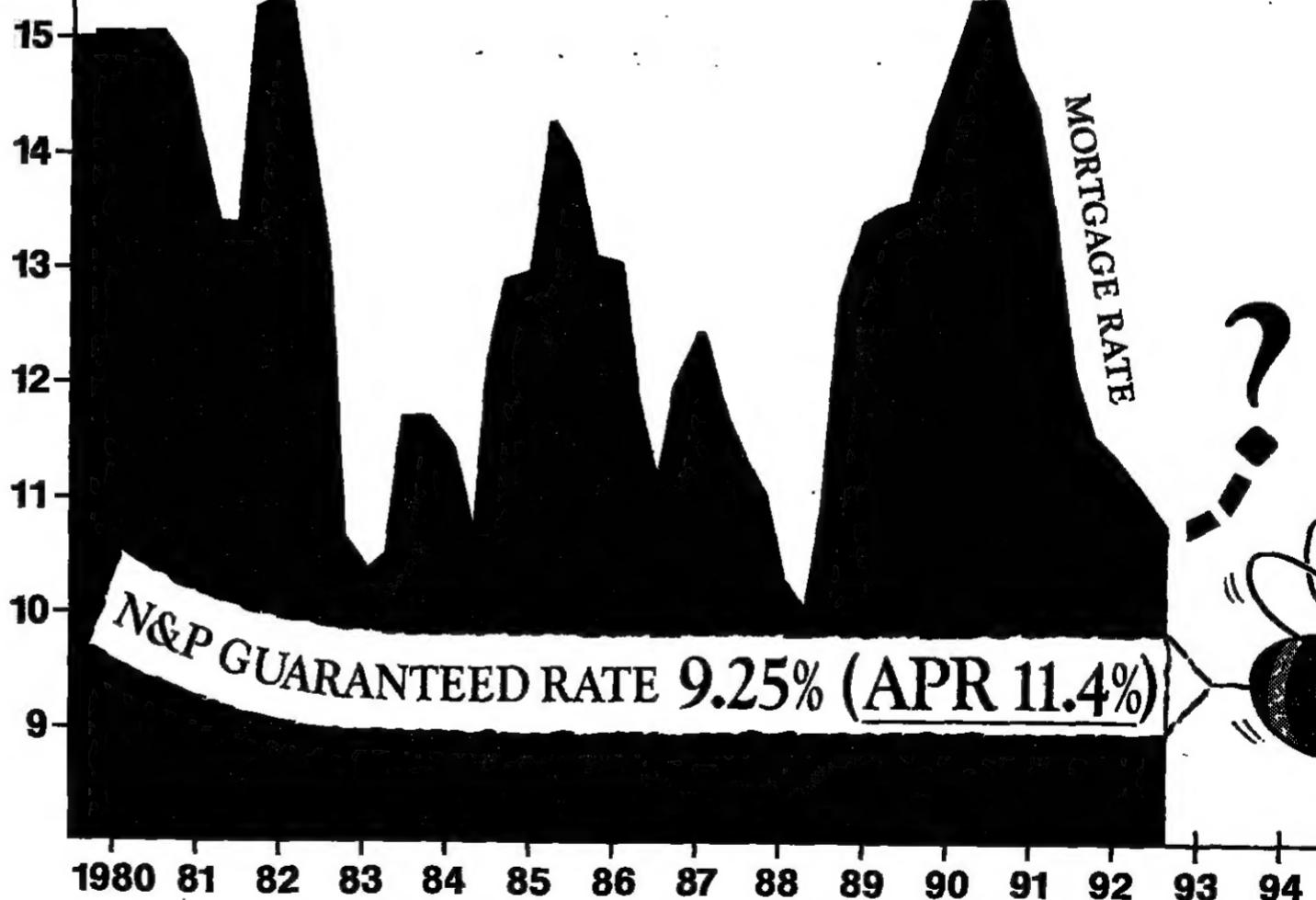
Although this riddle may only exacerbate the ages, Saddam has shown signs of relenting in his suggestion he intends his blood purge.

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OF THIS



NO PEACE FOR SERBIA

The principle that aggression must not stand, nor borders be altered by force, has at last been firmly asserted by the United Nations Security Council in the case of Bosnia. The UN's recently acquired credibility in upholding and enforcing international law would now appear to be on the line.

The security council has unequivocally confirmed "the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina" and each country's right "to live in peace and security within its borders". Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which implies that the world is prepared to enforce its will, the UN has formally declared the conflict there to be "a threat to international peace and security" and demanded an immediate end to "all military activity".

Yet every political signal points in the opposite direction: towards acceptance of the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina and recognition that Greater Serbia is, however repugnant that may be, an accomplished fact. The UN secretary-general has made public his fear that this conflict could become "the UN's Vietnam", from which it should therefore distance itself. Western governments appear anxious to keep the UN in place mainly in order to deflect public pressure on them to "do something".

The Bosnian government, whose ambassador was inexcusably denied a security council hearing this week, is understandably suspicious that the subject of these outwardly stern UN resolutions is the dismemberment of the state under the UN's auspices. In reluctant response to popular anguish, President Bush has pledged to "do whatever we have to do to stop the killing". But stopping the fighting could mean no more than a ceasefire which would leave Bosnia's Serbs with the 70 per cent of the republic they have seized with Belgrade's help and the Croats with the sizeable slice of Herzegovina they have grabbed on the side.

There is certainly still no case for a massive land intervention to separate the warring parties. The costs would be heavy, and the

political outcome uncertain. But the choice is not necessarily between all-out intervention and accepting Greater Serbia (and Greater Croatia) as accomplished facts.

The West has barely begun to test the resolve of Serbia, a state with no significant allies which has given no serious sign of being prepared for indefinite confrontation with the West. The West must now build on the UN's affirmation of Bosnia's territorial integrity. Serbs and Croats must be told that they can have their proper states, but not at the expense of others, and that there will never be such a thing as this gross Greater Serbia at peace with the world.

UN sanctions have been formally imposed on Serbia. Even though they have barely begun to be properly enforced, these have brought industry almost to a standstill and thrown thousands out of work. The strains are showing in the ruling party, now deeply divided, in the growing strength of the opposition, and in popular discontent over shortages of petrol and basic goods.

The tourists must be tightened and neighbouring countries asked to accept border inspections. The Croatian government should be put on notice that it will face similar sanctions unless it abandons all thought of annexing or controlling Herzegovina. In Bosnia, the Serbs should be made to realize that any interference with humanitarian operations may be met with exemplary air strikes on arms stockpiles, tank concentrations and artillery emplacements.

Once it is clearly understood in Belgrade and Zagreb that their objectives in Bosnia are achievable only at unacceptable, permanent cost, negotiations should become possible. Bosnia is not a lost cause as a state; refugees returned to their homes in Croatia in 1945, after a far crueler civil war than this. To countenance Greater Serbia will lead not only to thousands more permanent refugees but to a massive defeat for international law. The West has means short of war to bring about peace in the Balkans. What it has not shown so far is the will, the skill and the perseverance.

BRITISH RIGHTS

Almost unnoticed, establishment opinion is moving towards the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The Liberal Democrats have always been in favour, together with a sprinkling of distinguished lawyers such as Lord Scarman. Now the new leader of the Labour party, John Smith, wants to make it his party's policy. The new Conservative chairman of the home affairs select committee, Sir Ivan Lawrence, has recently come out in favour of it. And this week the new Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Bingham, argued vehemently for incorporation: "They are right: nothing would do more to protect the rights of the citizen; an aim which John Major claims to be at the heart of his citizen's charter philosophy."

The issue is not whether Britain should be bound by the convention. The country was the first to ratify the treaty in 1951 — it has nothing to do with, and long predates, the European Community — and ever since 1965, Britons have been able to appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg if they think their rights have been violated.

Every other country that has ratified the convention allows its own judges to rule on the rights of its citizens. Britain alone forces its subjects to go all the way to Strasbourg. This is Sir Ivan's main reason for backing incorporation: he says he is fed up with Britain washing its dirty linen abroad. Lord Justice Bingham, too, says he wants British judges to protect the rights of British citizens.

Because so many British cases end up in Strasbourg, Britain is seen unfairly as the illiberal man of Europe. Not only does the country's reputation suffer; so do the victims. Recourse to Strasbourg is extremely expensive, cumbersome and long-winded. Cases have to be taken as far as they can in the British legal system, sometimes all the way up to the House of Lords, before they go

to Strasbourg. Then the European process can take as long as eight years. No wonder even the British member of the Commission, Sir Basil Hall, who used to be against incorporation, has now changed his mind.

Parliament would need to pass an act saying that every domestic law should be interpreted by the courts according to the principles laid down in the European convention and in past interpretations of the convention by the European Court of Human Rights. Judges would thus be able to measure laws and their effects against the template of Britain's new bill of rights to make sure that they fit. This would be no more political an exercise than judges already undertake in any case between the citizen and the government — whether over the rights of girls to have as many grammar school places as boys or the right of the government to prevent publication of *Spycatcher*. The case law already exists in volumes, and British judges are no less likely to interpret it fairly than their colleagues overseas.

Parliament would lose no sovereignty as it could in theory reverse such a law, but it would cede some power that in a free, democratic country it does not deserve to have. Only laws that deprived citizens of basic human rights would be challenged, as already happens in Strasbourg. Under Britain's unwritten constitution there is no means to entrench a bill of rights, to prevent it being repealed. But only a very rash Parliament would ever dare to do so.

The Queen described the convention earlier this year as the Council of Europe's "greatest single achievement" and talked of "the ever-growing success of the convention, which is now so much a part of our democratic heritage". More than three centuries after the last bill of rights the time has come for Britain to adopt the European convention as its own. Without citizen's rights, a citizen's charter means little.

SAFE IN THE COOLER

Northern Ireland joined the civilised world some time in the 1980s. By the end of the decade its ownership of refrigerators per household was recorded as 98 per cent up 13 per cent in ten years. The point is not that two out of every 100 Northern Ireland homes have no such machines — given the margin of error, that is a rash supposition — but that at this high figure, the Central Statistical Office stops counting. Statistically speaking, everybody in Northern Ireland now has a refrigerator, just like everybody else in the United Kingdom, statistically speaking, ten years before.

The refrigerator's claim to be the really cool test of membership of the first world should not be based so much on its routine duties, such as keeping an opened packet of streaky bacon edible a day longer or extending the shelf-life of skinned milk. A survey by the Gallup organisation has now come forward with proof that refrigerators are much more vital to their owners' secret foibles than that. Nothing else explains the comprehensive trust that people place, along with their socks, in their fridges.

Gallup's serious purpose, for which it was funded by British electricity companies, was to measure not so much all this ingenuity in refrigeration as its abuse through ignorance. Along with socks and frogs, people keep bacteria by the millions in fridges, by not observing the refrigerator or food manufacturers' instructions. Many people are not even aware of the link between food storage temperature and food poisoning.

Gallup wanted to know whether people used their fridges as a vital aid to food hygiene, or merely as extra cupboard space. Largely the latter, was the answer. There must be a word for people who have a refrigerator but do not know what it is for. But at least they share this confusion with its inventor, one William Cullen of Glasgow University, who first demonstrated evaporative cooling in his laboratory in 1748 but could not think of a use for it.

Balkan refugees 'victims of bad law'

From Dr M. L. Pirovet

Sir, Your report, "Britain eases rules on refugees" (August 13), refers to the Dublin Convention and to removals of asylum-seekers under "international law".

The Dublin Convention is not international law: it is between just 12 states. It is not European Community law either. Although enacted between the 12 member states of the Community, it has been negotiated outside EC structures, and decisions made under it cannot, therefore, be scrutinised by the European Court. Nor can they be scrutinised by the European Court of Human Rights because that is an instrument not of the European Community but of the Council of Europe.

A law whose operations cannot be scrutinised by any court is, ipso facto, bad law.

Moreover only two of the states which drew up the Dublin Convention have ratified it, namely Denmark and Britain. The recent deportations from Britain of Balkan refugees, however, have been to Belgium, Germany and Italy, which have not ratified the conventions to Austria and the USA, which are not

Perils and profits of intervention

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir, Having led us into one unnecessary war in the Falklands and committed us to another in the Gulf, Lady Thatcher runs true to form in suggesting (letter, August 14) that returning one protagonist in the Balkan conflict and bombing one of the others might lead to peace.

Mercifully, the bizarre character of her strategy is no threat to the one glimmer of real hope that UN protection of humanitarian aid convoys may lead to other forms of non-offensive military action such as safe havens.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACKIE,
4 Warwick Drive, SW15.
August 14.

From Major General Philip Davies

Sir, Resistance to the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia, the efforts of 20,000 British troops over five years to capture Colonel Grivas in the mountains of Cyprus and the humiliation of American power in Vietnam are surely sufficient examples to deter military intervention in the Balkans. There must be a better way.

The priorities for concerned international efforts are concerned to provide safe refuge for those civilians already displaced or under imminent threat; to provide essential food, clothing and medicines to those in dire need; to ensure that all refugee or internment camps are subject to international inspection and supervision; to ensure that sanctions already in place against Serbia are 100 per cent effective; to secure long-term political solutions for lasting democracy and security within the area.

The planning and execution of the above tasks are the direct responsibility of the United Nations supported by, and in concert with, the International Committee of the Red

Swift action

From Mr John Rofe

Sir, I read Judge Timothy Lawrence's article, "Part-timers who must be paid more" (Law Times, August 4), with particular interest as I was to be involved in a court action the following day, an action difficult to determine by any standards.

The judge had clearly seized out the difficulties from the pre-case paper work. Within minutes she had probed the plaintiff's claim and reduced it. She then turned to the defendant's contention and stated the difficulties of sustaining it before the court.

Next she demonstrated the inordinately high costs likely to result, to be met by the loser, and virtually ushered out the parties to see if a settlement could be reached before the case continued. In the meantime

Council error

From the Chief Executive of Camden Council

Sir, Your coverage of the report of Mr Andrew Arden, QC, into Camden's deferred purchase agreement which fell be repaid a year earlier than expected ("£24m council error blamed on lawyer", August 11) sets out briefly the criticisms of named officers. In fairness, it should be noted that in Mr Arden's view the failure of each officer was "either for a small manner, or in a very short period", and he urged the use of constructive criticism

Reducing addictions

From Professor Griffith Edwards and Dr John Strang

Sir, We wish to welcome the government's recent white paper, "Health of the Nation", in terms of its providing for the first time a goal-directed official policy on tobacco, alcohol, and injecting drugs. Bold targets have been set (1994 for some interim targets; 2000 for achieving the full target). These include benefits to the nation which are potentially startling: a reduction of at least a third in the prevalence of cigarette smoking and of drinking alcohol above recommended limits, and a 50 per cent reduction in rates of needle sharing by injecting drug users.

These targets will not be reached by strategy declarations alone. Training across this whole area is at present underdeveloped and increased training investment will be necessary if the broad mass of health-care workers are to move from the management of addictive illness to the promotion of health. Greatly increased support will also be required for research and development at the addictions.

The Department of Health has historically assigned only 0.8 per cent of budget to health service

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number —

071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fair taxation and the company car

From the Chairman and Managing Director of Vauxhall Motors Ltd

Sir, Vauxhall and others in the motor industry have been lobbying the Treasury in recent months to tax the company car driver on the list price of the car not, as currently, on engine size (leading article, "The car perk racket", August 8).

Governments often send asylum-seekers back to what they maintain is the first safe country they arrived in (though nothing in international law requires this), but the office of the Dublin Convention and to remove of asylum-seekers under "international law".

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COURT CIRCULAR

AUGUST 14: The Duke of York this evening attended an open air concert in support of the Grand Columbus Regatta, King's Dock, Liverpool. Captain Neil Blair RN was in attendance.

By command of the Queen, Her

Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Cotton) was present at Hawarden Airport this afternoon upon the arrival of The King and Queen of Spain, and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Princess Royal

The Princess Royal celebrates her birthday today.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Robert Bolt, playwright, 66; Sir Charles Carter, former vice-chancellor, Lancaster University, 73; Mr David Coleman, president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 55; Mr Edmund Dell, former MP, 71; Dr Hans Fehlisch, musical painter, 94; Mr James Fleeson, headmaster, Ampleforth College, 53; Dame Wendy Hillier, actress, 80; Miss Rita Hunter, soprano, 59; Lord Ingram, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, 75; the Hon Hugh Lawson, director-general, King George's Fund for Sailors, 61; Mr Jack Lynch, former Prime Minister, Republic of Ireland, 75; Sir Patrick Nairne, former master, St Catherine's College, Oxford, 71; Sir Kenneth Newman, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 66; Major-General Kenneth Perkins, 66; Mr Oscar Peterson, jazz pianist, 67; Mr Justice Popplewell, 65; Professor Sir Leszek Raszinowski, criminologist, 84; Lady Diana, former Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 87; Professor Sir Michael Rutter, psychiatrist, 59; Viscount Selby, 56; Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Severn, former Captain of The Queen's Flight, 67; Captain Richard Smyth, racehorse trainer, 39; Lord Justice Steya, 60; the Hon William Waldegrave, MP, 46; Air Vice-Marshal Sir William Wren, 53.

TOMORROW: The Right Rev Ronald Bowly, 66; Sir Philip Dowson, architect, 68; Sir David Gillmore, diplomat, 58; Miss Katherine Hamnett, fashion designer, 45; Madonna, singer, 33; Sir Donald Maitland, civil servant and diplomat, 70; Mr Tom Maschler, publisher, 61; Sir Johnathan Cape, 59; Mr John Standing, actor, 58; Professor W. S. C. Symmers, pathologist, 75; Sir James Taylor, mining engineer, 90; Mr Jeff Thomson, cricketer, 42; Mr Arthur Walsh, former chairman, Northern Telecom Europe, 66; Sir Geoffrey Warnock, former vice-chancellor, Oxford University, 69; Sir Jack Wellings, former chairman, the 600 Group, 75; Professor Brian Woledge, professor of French, 88.

Tomorrow's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will disband from *HMY Britannia* at Aberdeen at 9.45am.

The Queen will arrive at Balliol College, Edinburgh, as Command-in-Chief of the Cameron Highlanders of the Tower (Million) and the Royal Highland Light Infantry, will visit Leves and Newhaven at 12.45pm to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Dieppe raid.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will attend a service at the

Church of St Peter's, Thurso, at 11.30am to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes and the seventieth anniversary of the Caithness Federation of SWRI.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Robert Blake, admiral, Bridgewater, Somerset, 1599; Jeremy Taylor, theologian, Cambridge, 1613; Napoleon Bonaparte, Ajaccio, Corsica, 1769; Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh, 1771; Thomas de Quincey, author, Manchester, 1785; Walter Crane, illustrator, Liverpool, 1845; James Keir Hardie, chairman of the Independent Labour Party 1893-1900, 1913-14, Liverpool, 1856; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, London, 1875; Sir Peter Buck, Maori politician, Uremu, New Zealand, 1880; T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Tremadoc, 1915.

DEATHS: Macbeth, king of Scotland 1040-57, killed, Lumphunian, Aberdeenshire, 1057; Joseph Joachim, violinist and composer, Berlin, 1907; Paul Signac, painter, pioneer of pointillism, Paris, 1935; Wiley Post, aviator and Will Rogers, aviator, killed in a plane crash, Alaska, 1935.

VJ Day, celebrating the surrender of Japan, 1945.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Ralph Thoresby, antiquary, Leeds, 1658; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Richmond, Surrey, 1821; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, Goulburn, New South Wales, 1865; Georges Heyer, historical novelist, London, 1902.

DEATHS: Jacques Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1705; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Jean Martin Charcot, physician, Paris, France, 1893; Robert Bunsen, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; Sir Joseph Lockyer, astronomer, Salcombe Regis, Devon, 1920; Bela Lugosi, film actor, 1956; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, 1959; Selman Waksman, discover of streptomycin, Nobel laureate 1952; Hyannis, Massachusetts, 1973; Elvis Presley, Memphis, Tennessee, 1977; John George Diefenbaker, prime minister of Canada 1957-63, 1979.

The 'Penzance' massacre, Manchester, 1819. The Tate Gallery, London, was opened, 1897.

The Queen and Peter, a son of

Harriet Martineau, a sister for Revd

Eliza Norton, 1841.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as

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College at 12.45pm.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as

Command-in-Chief of the Cameron

Highlanders of the Tower (Million)

and the Royal Highland Light

Infantry, will visit Leves and

Newhaven at 12.45pm to

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OBITUARIES

LILO MILCHSACK

Lilo Milchsack, Hon CDMG, Hon CBE, founder of the Anglo-German Königswinter conferences, died in Düsseldorf on August 7 aged 87. She was born in Frankfurt in 1905.

LILO Milchsack's contribution to the re-establishment of confidence and friendship between Germany and Britain after Hitler's war is an outstanding example of the influence of individual personalities on the course of history. Both countries were fortunate that such individuals came forward in those difficult post-war years. One on the British side with whom Lilo Milchsack worked closely was the late Sir Robert Birley, then responsible for education in the British Zone. Between them they created the annual Anglo-German Königswinter conferences, which have done so much for mutual understanding and which eventually inspired similar bilateral meetings: Anglo-Polish, Anglo-French, Anglo-Irish and others.

Lilo Milchsack was born Lilo Duden, her grandfather having founded the famous Germany dictionary which bears his name; her father was an industrial physicist. She married a businessman with inland shipping interests, Hans Milchsack, whose moral and financial support to her own efforts has not always received the credit it deserved. Lilo and Hans were in opposition to Hitler and the Nazi regime. In the early 1930s Hans was one of the only two German business representatives who, at a meeting at the Industrieclub in Düsseldorf, refused to support the Nazis. Both helped Jews and others to leave Germany. When the Allied forces crossed the Rhine in 1945, the Milchsack's anti-Nazi record was such that the Americans appointed Hans as Bürgermeister of their home district near Düsseldorf; he operated from their home with Lilo's help. The



Lilo Milchsack, left, with the British ambassador in Bonn, Sir Roger Jackling, and his wife in 1972

Americans soon handed over to the British in the Rhine-Ruhr area, and Lilo Milchsack met Robert Birley. Her chief concern then was that her compatriots should recall the guiding principles of democratic society and base the new Germany upon them. This in her view could be helped through close personal contacts with Britain and through study of British parliamentary and social institutions. This was not easy at a time when

personal contacts between British and Germans had been discouraged. Her work began with the establishment in 1949 of the German-English Society, of which she was for three decades the director, later becoming its honorary president. It brought many distinguished British lecturers to the Federal Republic and provided the basis of the German end of the organisation of the Königswinter conferences.

The first of these took place in 1950, with a meeting of social workers, and the second in 1951 was devoted to press responsibility. The themes of subsequent conferences became more general and more political, dealing with Anglo-German relations, East-West relations, the Atlantic Alliance and European institutions, but they continued to deal with social and economic issues of concern to both countries. At a

relatively early stage Lilo Milchsack's original concept of Germans learning about democratic practices from personal contacts with the British was overtaken by frank and open discussion of each other's and of world problems.

Königswinter conferences have been attended by politicians (many, if not most, of whom became members of British and German governments), by press correspondents, by academics, by business, banking and trade union representatives and in later years also by national and international officials. They created not only understanding but close bonds of friendship as well, and a high value was placed upon them by British and German governments differing political persuasions.

The blending of open and informal discussion without communication, joint statements or agreed resolutions, with serious treatment of important themes by leading personalities from so many different backgrounds, made these conferences unique. This was the special achievement of Lilo Milchsack, as all participants always recognised. With all her strength of purpose, she remained personally modest, preferring to work in the background. In doing so, she made a host of close friends in both countries.

Lilo Milchsack's activities were lauded by successive German presidents and chancellors and British prime ministers. They earned her West Germany's Grand Federal Cross of Merit in 1959. By Britain, she was appointed honorary CBE in 1958 and honorary CMG in 1968. Finally, in 1972, she was created an honorary DCMG and remained for many years the only foreign holder of this award. It marked her unique services to Anglo-German relations, to which no one since 1945 made a greater or more effective personal contribution.

Her husband died in 1984.

MAJ-GEN DENZIL KOBBEKAUDUWA

Maj-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, who was due to take over as the Sri Lankan army's chief of staff in August next year, was killed on August 8 aged 52, when a pressure mine exploded under a vehicle in which he was travelling. He was born on July 27, 1940.

DENZIL Kobbekaduwa was General Officer Commanding of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka at the time of his death, and was in charge of the operation to defeat one of the fiercest terrorist groups in the world, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which the Indians accused of killing of Rajiv Gandhi last year.

Kobbekaduwa was trained in Britain, at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, at the Royal College of Defence Studies and at the Staff College, Camberley. He joined the Sri Lankan army in 1960 and rose rapidly to become a troop commander in its armoured corps.

He was respected as a courageous man who led from the front and was a source of encouragement to all. A master strategist, he proved his skills as a commander when he was given a free hand to operate against the LTTE.

He was unique among his fellow commanders in demanding that the army should warn civilians a few hours prior to launching an operation or bombing rebel areas. Leaflets were dropped from the air identifying safe places for civilians to seek shelter. This was because of his belief that the secessionist war of the LTTE in the island's north could only be solved politically, by winning the hearts and minds of the population. He cared deeply for those who suffered innocently because of the war.

However, he was tough as far as the LTTE was concerned, and felt that the organisation must be weakened militarily to bring it to the negotiating table. The success-

Dr D. W. Adamson, Director of Research for the Wellcome Foundation from 1953 to 1977, died on August 3 aged 89. He was born on July 12, 1912.

JOCK Adamson was an immensely effective man in the post-war development of pharmaceuticals. Within that world he had an international reputation and his judgment guided many scientists to results of great importance.

He was a brilliant young chemist, taking an early doctorate at Manchester and another at Oxford. He was ready for a career of research, but instead was swept into the war effort at Porton Down, where he worked at chemical defences against nerve and other gases. It was there that he discovered that he had great talents as an organiser, achieving the design, manufacture and delivery of equipment to the Russians before the contracted date, something that is rare even now in the military world.

In 1945 he joined the staff of the Wellcome Foundation Chemical Research Laboratories and in 1948 was appointed head of the chemical division. His small research team was soon successful, finding a compound that treated Parkinson's, another that relieved peptic ulcers, yet another that is a powerful anti-histamine and a fourth that is an analgesic for dogs.

His wide-ranging talents were recognised, and in 1953 he was appointed director of research, a position he held for 24 years until 1977. He was also



responsible for overseas development and travelled widely, becoming an international figure.

The research achieved under his guidance provided the basis for Wellcome's massive expansion in the past two decades. He was the driving force behind many achievements, such as the building of the first laboratory in the world to

produce oral polio vaccine. Developments of this kind were close to his heart; he cared deeply about the duty of scientists to help people throughout the world.

His work with the research teams at Wellcome in the USA was equally productive. Affection, pleasure in his company, his wry sense of humour and his generosity and courtesy are what colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic like to remember. These are not the feelings that are usually held about people in positions of power, but in spite of his authority and position he was never just an administrator. He took his decisions with vision, always looking towards research that could benefit humanity. He was far-seeing: it was 25 years ago that he wrote, in *The Times*, of the need to find ways to control the body's auto-immune responses.

He retired from Wellcome in July 1977. He could never reconcile himself to the changes in the foundation that have taken place since then. He was proud of the "non-profit" status of Wellcome during the years that he worked for the foundation and never accepted the argument that it should become a conventional company that profited from human illness for the benefit of shareholders.

Adamson's retirement was saddened by the death of his dearly loved wife, Pam. With great courage he re-made his life. He found many new interests among them collection and restoration of Chinese trade paintings.

Adamson is survived by his three daughters.

DURRANT ROBERTSON

Durrant Waite Robertson, American medievalist and Chaucer scholar, has died aged 77. He was born in Washington on October 11, 1914.

D. W. Robertson, professor of Princeton from 1946 until his retirement in 1980, was a noted American medievalist and Chaucerian. The books most often now recommended to students are *A Preface to Chaucer* (1963), and his and Bernard F. Huppé's *Frey and Chaf: Studies in Chaucer's Allegories* (1963). With Huppé he had previously written *Piers Plowman and Chaucer's Tradition* (1951).

Robertson gained his BA, MA and doctorate from the

University of North Carolina. He taught briefly at the University of Maryland before going on to Princeton, where all his most important work was done.

Robertson (together with Huppé when they collaborated) was a meticulous scholar and an extreme — a few thought too extreme — consequentialist. He insisted that in order to be understood properly, or even at all, Chaucer's and other contemporary texts needed to be read by people thoroughly trained in philology. He also required readers to be aware of cultural patterns and the way in which they changed, often rapidly.

Texts, he asserted, would otherwise remain as opaque as their language was archaic.

All too frequently, he would explain to his pupils, even the most famous works were being misinterpreted through ignorance. The easiest reading, the "obvious meaning", played no part in Robertson's austere scheme. The value of what he said was undeniable but was somewhat narrowly expressed; some of his colleagues variously exasperated and admiring, dubbed his approach "Robertsonianism".

Robertson was most particularly associated with the post-war trend in Chaucerian scholarship that concerned itself with close textual analysis, without which it was felt that "the nature of the literary entity" (as one of this group of critics put it) could not be discovered. Thus his *Preface* of 1963 is taken up, like R. O. Payne's almost contemporaneous *The Key of Remembrance*, with Chaucer's knowledge of the rhetorical techniques of his time.

In the Langland study of 1951 he and Huppé, who in 1949 had written an important scholarly article on the vexed question of the dating of The B-Text of Piers Plowman, argued for a reassessment of the author's thinking in the light of medieval interpretations of the scripturines. In 1963 they did something similar for Chaucer in their *Frey and Chaf*, in emphasising Chaucer's use of allegorical technique. Robertson's most accessible book is perhaps his most general, *The Literature of Medieval England* (1970).

August 15 ON THIS DAY 1961

ers-by realized the significance of the convoy of police vehicles which sped along the Thika road soon after 6.30 a.m.

According to Mr. Ngala, Kenya's return was only prevented yesterday by mud on the road at Maralal. In Northern Province, where he has been living in seclusion since Easter, if so, it was lucky for the security forces, who last night would have had to cope with a restive crowd of more than 10,000. Today there were barely 2,000 at Gatundu when Kenya arrived... by tonight the crowd had still not reached unmanageable proportions and remained exuberant but well behaved.

Kenya police and tribal forces on the spot were reinforced by special general service units with rifles and tear gas bombs, but their intervention has not yet been needed.

... At the house he was emotionally greeted by his first wife, Grace, his stepbrother James Muigai, and several of their relatives, and then toured the rooms of the house, expressing satisfaction at their furnishings.

After half an hour of reunions Kenya appeared at the verandah door to give a brief press conference... but he made one serious error when asked about his attitude to the Land Freedom Army.

Kenya appeared to hesitate, and then told the questioner: "I don't know about their activities. I don't know what they have been doing. If they are harmful to our country I would condemn them."

This inevitably brought to mind the old answers to questions about Mau Mau and the allegations of evasion frequently made against Kenya. Worse, many of the journalists present had last week been attending the press conference given by the Minister for Internal Security, Mr. Swann, at which he announced the banning of the Land Freedom Army. Mr. Swann had said: "We have discussed the Land Freedom Army with Kenya and he is certainly not in favour of it."

When patriotism can be costly

BY KERRY GILL

THERE seems to be no limit to the amount of money some people will pay for a personalised car registration number. There are those who will happily hand over the price of several executive cars, or more than 300 second-hand Ladas, for the conceit of a number that denies lesser drivers with, for example, the message UPU 2.

Some recently paid a record £160,000 for 1A, for which he or she could have bought a new Ferrari and had change for a lifetime of service bills. Now the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is to hold an auction of registration numbers in Edinburgh.

The sale at Heriot Watt University on September 1, will have a Scottish theme. It seems unlikely that there are many Church of Scotland ministers so well-heeled that they could afford K1 RKS (Kirks), expected to fetch £2,500, but Scottish parsons are expected to bid a similar amount for K1 LTS.

One number certain to attract wide interest is NES 1E, for Loch Ness monster hunters. For those of a literary bent there will be RAB 1E after the hard, bidding for which is expected to reach more than £5,000.

Some numbers need a little thought. MCN 1C is considered appropriate for a Scot-

Oxen shared spirit journey

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

POTTERY oxen, baskets of grain and model iron swords have been found at one of China's most spectacular archaeological sites, the pottery army accompanying the burial of a Han emperor.

Buried in long pits to the south of the royal tumulus, the discoveries reflect the ancient desire that the "spirit army" should be properly provisioned in its eternal task of protecting the emperor's body.

The oxen, 2ft long, are the largest animal figures known from the Han dynasty, according to Wang Xueli of the Shaanxi Institute of Archaeology. The two animals accompany figures of four dogs,

four sheep and two pigs, with pottery soup bowls and iron cooking pots in pit 21.

The 24 long, parallel pits, which span an area 300 metres wide and half a kilometre long, were found when a road was built to the new Xi'an airport, north of the Wei He river in central China. Six of those on the western side and two on the east have been excavated.

Pit 17, like pit 21, has pottery soldiers some 2ft high guarding a granary. Wheat and millet grains, well preserved after two millennia, filled the pit to a considerable depth. The pit also contained 70 pottery soldiers marching behind two carriages, each

drawn by three wooden horses.

Pit 20 has yielded long, orderly ranks of soldiers, each made in a four-part mould and fired before being painted, fitted with wooden arms, and dressed in silk. Traces of textile have survived on some of the figures, as have lacquered garters.

The wooden arms rotated at the shoulder, and their hands held miniature weapons, including iron swords and wooden crossbows with bronze triggers and bolts.

Seven hundred warriors have been uncovered so far, but the unexcavated pits 3-15 are expected to hold thousands more.

DR JANE MORGAN

Dr Jane Morgan, author and criminologist, died of cancer in Aberystwyth on August 7 aged 42. She was born in Harrogate on October 21, 1949.

JANE Morgan this year enhanced her reputation in sociological research through being joint author with Lucia Zedner, of a study on child victims of crime, an area felt to deserve more academic attention.

An authoritative examination of public policy towards child victims, it was based on a two-year survey of children, the police and support agencies. The study concluded that, although areas such as child abuse and the treatment of juvenile offenders are clearly recognised, the problem of children as incidental victims of a wider range of crimes requires urgent consideration. They are thrust into an adult system that takes little account of their needs.

Born in Harrogate, Yorkshire, she moved to Wrexham with her widowed mother and attended Action Park School, Wrexham, and then Grove Park School for Girls. In 1968, she became a history student at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where she went on to take an MA degree in Welsh history.

In 1973 she married Kenneth Morgan, then a fellow of modern history and politics at Queen's College, Oxford, where they lived very happily for more than 16 years with their two children. Jane Morgan managed a busy academic career while remaining a devoted mother. In 1979 she gained an external PhD degree from the University of Leicester on the political career of Christopher, Viscount Addison. This was published as a biography by Oxford University Press in 1988.

For three years, she worked on a Home Office research project at Worcester College, Oxford, on penal policy. In 1982 she was awarded a



PETER GODFREY

Peter Godfrey, mystery writer, former editor of the African magazine, DRUM, and a sub-editor on The Times for ten years until retirement in 1981, has died in London aged 74.

BORN in Vereeniging, Transvaal, South Africa, Peter Godfrey was an outspoken critic of apartheid throughout a journalistic career that spanned 20 years. After being chief sub-editor on Industry Week, he became press spokesman for the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, before becoming a sub-editor on The Times Business News in 1971.

Godfrey wrote hundreds of short stories, winning three international awards for detective fiction, and wrote for stage, television and radio. One of his longer tales became a film, *The Girl in Black Stockings*, starring Anne Bancroft.

Godfrey leaves a widow, Nina, and two sons.

Hereditary asthma is passed on by mother, say doctors

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WHEEZERS and sneezers should blame their mothers, according to scientists investigating the development of allergy. A gene that causes asthma and hayfever is active only when passed on through the mother's side of the family, they have found.

The discovery is likely to speed identification of the gene which could lead to the development of new treatments in the next decade.

Asthma and other allergies have been observed for many years to run in families, but recent studies have shown that children of asthmatic mothers are more likely to

inherit the disease than those whose fathers suffer. Now a team of researchers at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, have found that the allergy gene they located three years ago is active only when inherited from the mother.

The researchers know that the gene is in a small area of chromosome 11, which carries 6,000 genes in all. But the search has been frustrated by the seemingly arbitrary link between the gene and asthma, which is apparent in some families but not in others. "Recognising that it is inherited via the mother will make it easier to map the

gene," Dr Bill Cookson, the team leader, said. "To explain the predisposition for the maternal line, the researchers suggest that when inherited from the father it may be "switched off", so that it becomes inactive for the life of that person, although it can still be passed to future generations. The reason may be linked with the development of the placenta. Genes that control the growth of the placenta come mainly from the father and the presence of an active allergy gene could lead to miscarriage.

Alternatively, the researchers, whose work is detailed in *The Lancet* today, suggest that the presence of the gene in the mother may affect the antibodies she produces, or interact with what she eats, influencing the development of the child's immunity. The effect may also be transmitted through breast milk.

The Oxford team, funded by the Wellcome Foundation, were criticised earlier this week by Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, for making exaggerated claims for their work. Yesterday, a cautious Dr Cookson said they were on the brink of identifying the gene but it depended on "a lot of luck". "We have a lot of very interesting molecules we are looking at now and one could be the gene itself. If we are lucky we could come up with it this year but if we are unlucky it could take five."

He said that if the gene turned out to control a receptor, or switch, which could be turned off, it might be possible to develop treatments in five to ten years. But if it was a different kind, treatments could take "much longer".

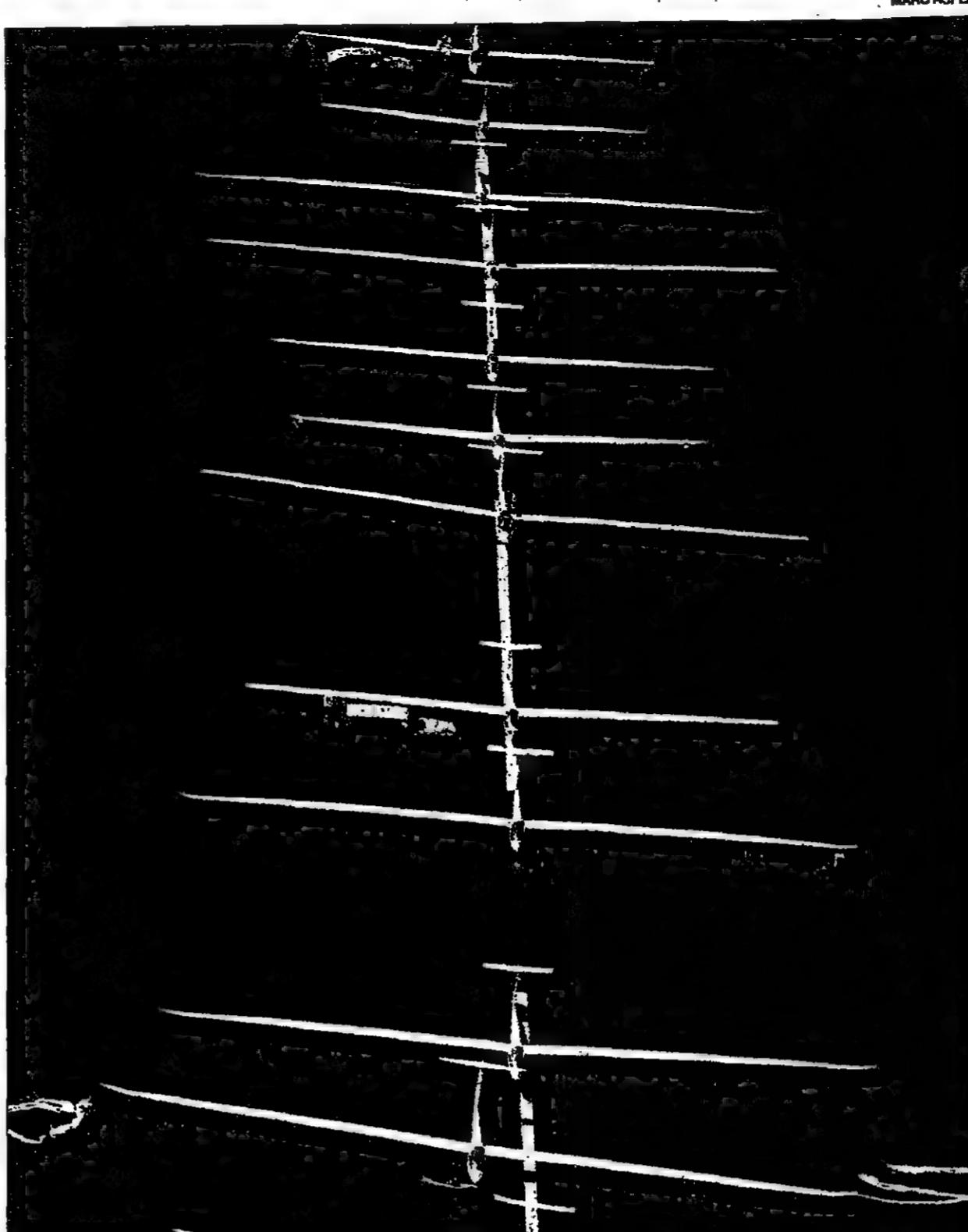
Psychosis of fear, page 6
Siren voice, page 10
Leading article and letters, page 11

Talks on Yugoslav peace collapse

Continued from page 1
republics chaired by Lord Carrington, which Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, refused to attend. Lord Carrington emerged afterwards grim-faced, admitting little could be done while he chose to stay.

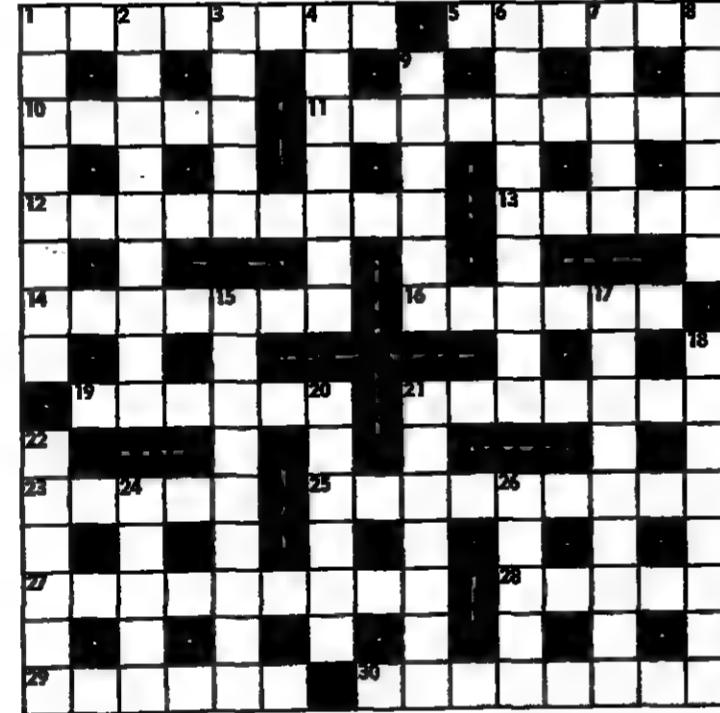
Mr Izetbegovic also dashed hopes for the London summit by protesting at the inclusion of the rump state of Yugoslavia. This would amount to diplomatic recognition through the back door, he said. Serbia has strongly denounced the UN vote as unnecessary and likely to lead to greater hostilities.

The only glimmer of hope came with the exchange yesterday of prisoners between Croatia and the rump Yugoslavia at Nemanjic, 160 miles east of Zagreb. The UN yes-



Ready to go: gliders lining up on a runway at RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire, yesterday for the start of two days of aeronautical manoeuvres at the British Open National Championships. The inter-services glider championship, which was held earlier, was won by Flight Lieutenant Andy Miller and Chris Terry

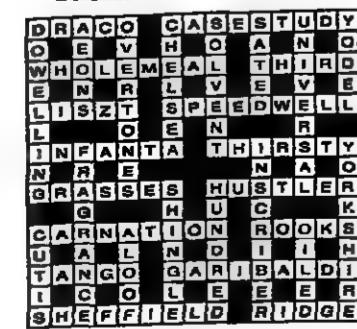
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,998



ACROSS
1 Swimming whales go to surface (4,1,3).
5 Small boat put into the water (6).
10 Application, if typed, to some extent showing style (5).
11 Invest foreign currency in prestigious sporting achievement (5,4).
12 Sporadic pot-shots around rock cease abruptly (4,5).
13 Cat with quite a lot of scruples (5).
14 Pans for a starter in Naples – lots of it (7).
16 What makes a wave a wave? (6).
19 In gym, tomboy performed quickly (6).
21 Conspirator who was envious of Norman falls (7).
23 State currency up in value (5).
25 Musical sound from bird nesting right inside the hill (4,1,4).
27 A tricky situation – casserole (5).
28 Face can be a verb (5).
29 Kipper's head? (6).
30 When holding, strong chaps' surgeon has to be forcible (8).
DOWN
1 Wabbles on one note – very monotonous (6).
2 Not in the pink or blue (3-6).
3 Foot swallowed up by crevasse (5).

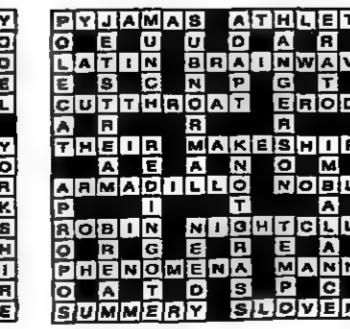
Answers to last Saturday's crossword are: Mrs Brocklehurst, Radley Close, Broadstairs, Kent; M J Cochran, Mountain View Home Park, Portmore, Barnstable, Devon; Mrs Bannister, Downend Road, Downend, Bristol; Mrs. Scott, Home, Riverside, Sturminster Newton, Dorset; T R Ballard, Ballard's Green, Bognor Regis, West Sussex; Mrs. G. C. Smith, 101, Caltham, Orkney & Shetland, N Ireland.

Solution to Puzzle No 18,992



PARKER DUOFOLD
A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct entries to The Times, Saturday Crossword Competitor, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

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Name/Address

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard
ORECTIC
a. A twitting spasm in the ear.
b. Jealous.
c. Pertaining to desire.
FOSSICK
a. Old fogey.
b. To undermine someone's digging.
c. To malingering.
POSTIL
a. A carriage postboy.
b. A marginal note.
c. A pot still.
GHREMIAL
a. A close friend.
b. Having large breasts.
c. The clerk of a Freemasons' lodge.
Answers on page 12

AA TRAVEL INFORMATION
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National 737
National motorways 738
West Country 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
ACROSS
4 Write in large characters 'N144' (7).
6 Lion-tamer moves closer, and... (9).
7 ... heads off nervous young lion, one lacking fibre (5).
8 The village play (6).
9 Egyptologist to go over again, endlessly over (6).
15 Fruit accompanied by only fish (5,4).
17 Develop – combines are able to (9).
18 He will remain outwardly nonchalant and determined (4-4).
20 A warning – on account of that, one point is deducted (6).
21 Twister going round on a bike (7).
22 Arab staggering away from its borders (6).
24 Establish a lead at tennis (3,2).
26 A superior person, the French aristocrat (5).
Down
1 Pans for a starter in Naples – lots of it (7).
16 What makes a wave a wave? (6).
19 In gym, tomboy performed quickly (6).
21 Conspirator who was envious of Norman falls (7).
23 State currency up in value (5).
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Bucks, Oxon 706
West, Northants 707
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 709
Shrops, Heref & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Humber 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Cymd 715
N W England 716
W E Yorks & Dales 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders 722
Central Highlands 723
N Scotland 725
Celticness, Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727
ACROSS
TODAY: 8.23 pm to 9.48 pm
London 8.23 pm to 9.58 pm
Edinburgh 8.47 pm to 9.48 pm
Belfast 8.57 pm to 9.57 pm
Penzance 8.40 pm to 9.58 pm
Lighting-up times
TODAY Sun: 8.48 am Sun: 8.23 pm
TOMORROW Sun: 8.33 pm Sun: 8.23 pm
Last quarter August 21 Sun: 8.34 pm Sun: 8.23 pm

Lighting-up times
TODAY Sun: 8.48 am Sun: 8.23 pm
TOMORROW Sun: 8.33 pm Sun: 8.23 pm
Last quarter August 21 Sun: 8.34 pm Sun: 8.23 pm

Information supplied by Met Office

Scotland and Northern Ireland
will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times; then later in the day, the rain will become more showery. Northern England and Wales will be bright at first, then outbreaks of rain will spread east this afternoon. Elsewhere, mainly dry with bright spells, though patchy rain in the south-west later. Outlook: patchy rain in north Wales and northern England.

MIDDAY: 1-thunder; 2-dazzle; 3-fog; 4-sleet; 5-hail; 6-snow; 7-rain; 8-snowfall; 9-frost; 10-ice; 11-sleet; 12-hail; 13-snow; 14-fog; 15-rain; 16-snow; 17-frost; 18-ice; 19-sleet; 20-hail; 21-snow; 22-fog; 23-rain; 24-snow; 25-frost; 26-ice; 27-hail; 28-sleet; 29-snow; 30-fog; 31-rain; 32-snow; 33-frost; 34-ice; 35-hail; 36-sleet; 37-snow; 38-fog; 39-rain; 40-snow; 41-frost; 42-ice; 43-hail; 44-sleet; 45-snow; 46-fog; 47-rain; 48-snow; 49-frost; 50-ice; 51-hail; 52-sleet; 53-snow; 54-fog; 55-rain; 56-snow; 57-frost; 58-ice; 59-hail; 60-sleet; 61-snow; 62-fog; 63-rain; 64-snow; 65-frost; 66-ice; 67-hail; 68-sleet; 69-snow; 70-fog; 71-rain; 72-snow; 73-frost; 74-ice; 75-hail; 76-sleet; 77-snow; 78-fog; 79-rain; 80-snow; 81-frost; 82-ice; 83-hail; 84-sleet; 85-snow; 86-fog; 87-rain; 88-snow; 89-frost; 90-ice; 91-hail; 92-sleet; 93-snow; 94-fog; 95-rain; 96-snow; 97-frost; 98-ice; 99-hail; 100-sleet; 101-snow; 102-fog; 103-rain; 104-snow; 105-frost; 106-ice; 107-hail; 108-sleet; 109-snow; 110-fog; 111-rain; 112-snow; 113-frost; 114-ice; 115-hail; 116-sleet; 117-snow; 118-fog; 119-rain; 120-snow; 121-frost; 122-ice; 123-hail; 124-sleet; 125-snow; 126-fog; 127-rain; 128-snow; 129-frost; 130-ice; 131-hail; 132-sleet; 133-snow; 134-fog; 135-rain; 136-snow; 137-frost; 138-ice; 139-hail; 140-sleet; 141-snow; 142-fog; 143-rain; 144-snow; 145-frost; 146-ice; 147-hail; 148-sleet; 149-snow; 150-fog; 151-rain; 152-snow; 153-frost; 154-ice; 155-hail; 156-sleet; 157-snow; 158-fog; 159-rain; 160-snow; 161-frost; 162-ice; 163-hail; 164-sleet; 165-snow; 166-fog; 167-rain; 168-snow; 169-frost; 170-ice; 171-hail; 172-sleet; 173-snow; 174-fog; 175-rain; 176-snow; 177-frost; 178-ice; 179-hail; 180-sleet; 181-snow; 182-fog; 183-rain; 184-snow; 185-frost; 186-ice; 187-hail; 188-sleet; 189-snow; 190-fog; 191-rain; 192-snow; 193-frost; 194-ice; 195-hail; 196-sleet; 197-snow; 198-fog; 199-rain; 200-snow; 201-frost; 202-ice; 203-hail; 204-sleet; 205-snow; 206-fog; 207-rain; 208-snow; 209-frost; 210-ice; 211-hail; 212-sleet; 213-snow; 214-fog; 215-rain; 216-snow; 217-frost; 218-ice; 219-hail; 220-sleet; 221-snow; 222-fog; 223-rain; 224-snow; 225-frost; 226-ice; 227-hail; 228-sleet; 229-snow; 230-fog; 231-rain; 232-snow; 233-frost; 234-ice; 235-hail; 236-sleet; 237-snow; 238-fog; 239-rain; 240-snow; 241-frost; 242-ice; 243-hail; 244-sleet; 245-snow; 246-fog; 247-rain; 248-snow; 249-frost; 250-ice; 251-hail; 252-sleet; 253-snow; 254-fog; 255-rain; 256-snow; 257-frost; 258-ice; 259-hail; 260-sleet; 261-snow; 262-fog; 263-rain; 264-snow; 265-frost; 266-ice; 267-hail; 268-sleet; 269-snow; 270-fog; 271-rain; 272-snow; 273-frost; 274-ice; 275-hail; 276-sleet; 277-snow; 278-fog; 279-rain; 280-snow; 281-frost; 282-ice; 283-hail; 284-sleet; 285-snow; 286-fog; 287-rain; 288-snow; 289-frost; 290-ice; 291-hail; 292-sleet; 293-snow; 294-fog; 295-rain; 296-snow; 297-frost; 298-ice; 299-hail; 200-sleet; 201-snow; 202-fog; 203-rain; 204-snow; 205-frost; 206-ice; 207-hail; 208-sleet; 209-snow; 210-fog; 211-rain; 212-snow; 213-frost; 214-ice; 215-hail; 216-sleet; 217-snow; 218-fog; 219-rain; 220-snow; 221-frost; 222-ice; 223-hail; 224-sleet; 225-snow; 226-fog; 227-rain; 228-snow; 229-frost; 230-ice; 231-hail; 232-sleet; 233-snow; 234-fog; 235-rain; 236-snow; 237-frost; 238-ice; 239-hail; 240-sleet; 241-snow; 242-fog; 243-rain; 244-snow; 245-frost; 246-ice; 247-hail; 248-sleet; 249-snow; 250-fog; 251-rain; 252-snow; 253-frost; 254-ice; 255-hail; 256-sleet; 257-snow; 258-fog; 259-rain; 260-snow; 261-frost; 262-ice; 263-hail; 264-sleet; 265-snow; 266-fog; 267-rain; 268-snow; 269-frost; 270-ice; 271-hail; 272-sleet; 273-snow; 274-fog; 275-rain; 276-snow; 277-frost; 278-ice; 279-hail; 280-sleet; 281-snow; 282-fog; 283-rain; 284-snow; 285-frost; 286-ice; 287-hail; 288-sleet; 289-snow; 290-fog; 291-rain; 292-snow; 293-frost; 294-ice; 295-hail; 296-sleet; 297-snow; 298-fog; 299-rain; 300-snow; 301-frost; 302-ice; 303-hail; 304-sleet; 305-snow; 306-fog; 307-rain; 308-snow; 309-frost; 310-ice; 311-hail; 312-sleet; 313-snow; 314-fog; 315-rain; 316-snow; 317-frost; 318-ice; 319-hail; 320-sleet; 321-snow; 322-fog; 323-rain; 324-snow; 325-frost; 326-ice; 327-hail; 328-sleet; 329-snow; 330-fog; 331-rain; 332-snow; 333-frost; 334-ice; 335-hail; 336-sleet; 337-snow; 338-fog; 339-rain; 340-snow; 341-frost; 342-ice; 343-hail; 344-sleet; 345-snow;



Profile

Murray Stuart's new position as head of Scottish Power could turn out to be the Holy Grail he has been searching for in his bid for perfection. Hard years of training as a lawyer and then an accountant have led to an "odyssey" of different jobs in industry but he has now achieved his goal of heading a big public company. Page 17



Bank birthday

Barclays celebrates ten years of Saturday opening this week, surviving resistance from staff and other banks. Customers are now demanding longer Saturday banking hours. Page 20

Top-up trap

Employees who choose to make additional voluntary contributions to top up their pension schemes could find that most or even all of their return is eaten up in charges and expenses. Page 20



Letters Page 20

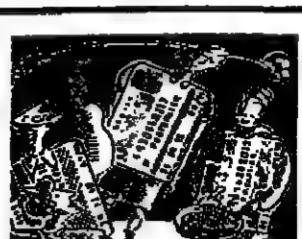
Student struggle

Shelley Harknett is just one of thousands of students forced to give up their studies because they cannot afford to continue, even with the help of wages from part-time jobs. The steep increase in student debt is continuing, threatening the futures of prospective students who receive their A level results this week. Organisations are calling for more help for students, while those already on courses suggest that soon higher education may only be available to the rich. Page 19



Not benefiting

Insurers have been accused of discriminating against landlords whose tenants are receiving state benefits. They deny this but at least one company appears confused about its position. Page 21



Going for gold

The British Medical Association now has its own gold credit card, joining an ever widening, exalted band of specialists with their own cards, including the fish fryers' federation. Page 21

Surprise fall in inflation gives boost to shares

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY AND PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARE prices soared in London yesterday in response to better-than-expected British inflation data, a sharp drop in German retail sales and wholesale prices, and hopes that the mark might have reached a peak on world foreign exchange markets.

Signs of a newfound stability in the Tokyo stock market and a hint from the deputy president of the Bundesbank that a further rise in German interest rates was not on the cards, cheered investors further and pushed share prices on most continental bourses substantially higher for the first time this week.

The most important news of the day came mid-morning when the Central Statistical Office said the real prices index had fallen by 0.4 per cent in July, pushing the headline rate of inflation down to 3.7 per cent. The monthly fall in the RPI was the largest for 25 years.

The RPI figure was much lower than economists expected, partly because of a sharp drop in seasonal food prices.

The good news on inflation initially put some downward pressure on sterling, but the pound recovered in the ERM as investors in America and Japan began to unload some of their mark positions in favour of the yen and dollar.

By the end of the day, the pound was down less than half a pence to DM2.8130, with the Bank of England and Treasury showing no signs of anxiety about its lowly position.

making positions in cash and futures markets.

Traders were encouraged further as the FT-SE 100 index passed what is seen as an important chart level of 2,350. Falls below this level earlier in the week had upset sentiment.

Buyers appeared in the afternoon for most blue chip shares, pushing volume of equities traded up to almost 450 million, high by recent standards on the London market.

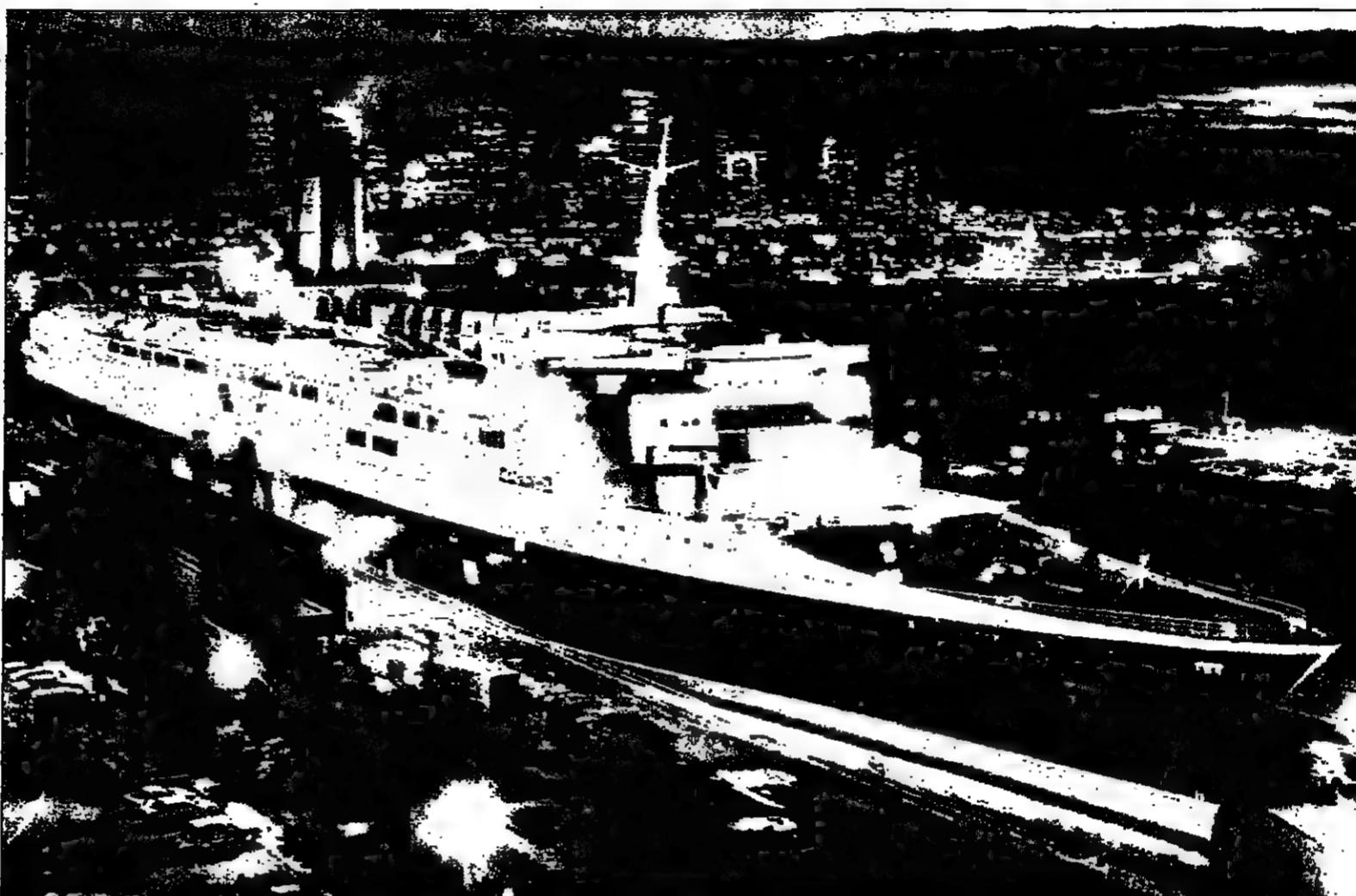
Leaguered stores, building and consumer sectors received a much-needed boost from hopes that the fall in German retail and car sales may prompt the Bundesbank to loosen its tight monetary stance, ultimately allowing a cut in British rates.

Double-figure gains were frequent in these sectors, but there were also sharp rises among internationals.

Redland rose 5p to 409p and RMC 11p to 460p. Argus, which reports results on Monday, rose 7p to 204p and Kingfisher gained 16p to 43p. Among builders, George Wimpey gained 8p to 39p and Raine put up 9p to 89p.

The encouraging trend continued on Wall Street. In afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average stood 8.37 points higher at 3,321.64, ending eight days of consecutive losses.

Inflation falls, page 1
Stock market, page 18



Damage check: the QE2 undergoing night repair work in dry dock in Boston, after running aground off Cape Cod. Next month's cruises have been cancelled.

Preferred route of local pilot not taken

FROM AP IN BOSTON

THE local pilot who helped navigate the Queen Elizabeth 2 luxury liner said yesterday that the ship was not taking the route he had preferred to use when it ran aground last week off Martha's Vineyard, on the American east coast.

Capt John Hadley said, however, that he had no difficulty with the ship captain's decision to use a slightly different route.

In testimony yesterday at a coast guard hearing, Capt Hadley described how the ship's course was changed before the accident.

He directed it to travel farther north than the original plotting, but Capt Robin Woodall ordered the QE2 back to its original course because he was worried about some shoals.

Capt Hadley said he supported the captain's decision. "If it made them more comfortable, that was fine by me," he said.

He did not immediately testify about why he preferred a different route, but Paul Esbensen, a National Transportation Safety Board investigator at the hearing, said Capt Hadley had told him he liked the other route because he had customarily used it in the past.

The cancellation of September cruises will at least double the initial estimate, and repair costs are likely to be much greater.

The QE2 went aground off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, last week and was towed into dry dock at Boston harbour on Wednesday, two days behind

QE2 damage 'worse than estimated'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LONDON insurers are bracing themselves for heavy insurance claims from Cunard after the cruise line confirmed that the damage to the hull of the Queen Elizabeth 2 is much worse than estimated. The ship will be out of action until at least the end of September.

A statement released by Cunard in New York last night after the completion of an engineers' inspection of the hull said that the damage extended into the keel of the vessel and that bids were being invited for the repair work.

The work means that eight Atlantic crossings and two cruises up to September 29 will have to be cancelled.

Estimates by Cunard's insurance broker, Willis Corroon, suggest the bill for loss of business and repairing the damage to the 66,000 tonne vessel could mount to well over £15 million, the initial estimate after the grounding. The £15 million comprises only the £8 million cost of cancelling cruises to the end of this month and a similar amount for the repair work.

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erate, is led by Commercial Union, which is thought to have retained an exposure of the first £1 million of any claim and 20 per cent of any claim in excess of that amount on its own books.

The rest of the exposure is spread around the London market. Cunard will have to pay the first \$100,000 of any loss of business claims but is otherwise fully covered. Very little of the exposure is thought to be to Lloyd's.

Gold price forecast to slide further

BY COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

GOLD ended the week after what dealers said had been a bumpy five days at \$336 an ounce - down \$44.95 on its previous Friday close - with analysts predicting further falls.

Yesterday's fall of \$1.50 took gold to within a whisker of the \$333 an ounce level seen in May - which was a sixteen-year low - and raised fresh fears that \$300 an ounce could be in sight.

James Newell, an analyst with the Commodity Research Bureau, based in America, said: "I can give you no economic justification for buying gold." The bureau's index

of 21 commodities fell in a six-year low on Wednesday, sparked a persistent wave of selling pressure.

Platinum lost \$8.50 to \$444.50 an ounce yesterday in what dealers described as choppy conditions.

The Japanese executed a large selling order in early dealings yesterday, which gave London a weak opening. By noon, platinum prices in London had staged some recovery, only to be knocked further back when New York markets opened.

Dealers said that weak gold markets had been made additionally nervous by increased producer selling of the metal.

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US dollar

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German mark

2.8174 (+0.0025)

Exchange index

91.8 (+0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

1753.8 (+31.6)

FT-SE 100

2356.8 (+38.8)

New York Dow Jones

3314.89 (+1.62)

Tokyo Nikkei Average

14820.25 (+52.08)

London

Bank Base: 10%

3-month interbank: 10%-10.5%

3-month eligible bills: 9.5%-9.75%

US Prime Rate: 8%

3-month Treasury Bills: 3.07-3.08%

30-year bonds: 9.5%-9.75%

London Foreign market close

US dollar

1.9195

German mark

2.8174

Exchange index

91.8

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

1753.80

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Transatlantic sets sights on growth after listing

BY RODNEY HOBSON

TRANSATLANTIC Holdings, which bought Capital & Counties and half of Sun Life, still aims to expand after its launch on the London Stock Exchange last month.

Donald Gordon, chairman, said the recession should create many opportunities for expansion in life insurance, property development, investment and financial services.

"Transatlantic, with its powerful capital base, is particularly well placed to participate in the recapitalisation and restructuring process which even sound property and insurance businesses may find necessary," he said. The company has no specific targets in mind.

Mr Gordon was producing the first results since the listing. Pre-tax profits fell from £34.2 million to £26.6 million in the six months to June but the figures were distorted because Capital & Counties, the property group that owns

the Thurrock Lakeside shopping complex, in Essex, capitalised interest payments until a year ago. That added £15.8 million to last year's figure.

Earnings per share slumped to 5.06p from 9.16p, but that figure, too, was distorted, by a rights issue just before the half-year end.

The interim dividend remains at 6p on the enlarged capital. Transatlantic forecast an unchanged total of 12p for 1992 when it came to market and David Fischel, the managing director, says he sees no reason to recant.

The shares slipped 3p to 186p, leaving them 2p below the listing price. Mr Gordon said the price did not reflect Transatlantic's net asset value of around 300p per share, or the potential of the assets represented by its interests in Sun Life and Capital & Counties.

The asset value is based on December 1991 valuations of completed investment properties. The next valuation will be at the end of this year.

On net borrowings of £370 million, gearing is 35 per cent and £200 million of the debt is long-term, with an average maturity of 30 years. Mr Gordon said the conservative debt position, which primarily related to the property portfolio, was critical to Transatlantic's expansion strategy and differentiated it from other property-related investment companies.

Investment property values had continued to decline; rental pressure had been particularly severe in the office sector and depressed consumer spending had affected the performance of retail property. The office side has contained the vacancy rate at 4 per cent. Mr Gordon said: "This is a higher level than we have been accustomed to in the past, but it is still an acceptable position in the current depressed conditions."

Turnover was £10.4 million (£8.8 million) as sales at home and abroad began to pick up. Short time working and



Blooming profits: husband and wife Euan Cooper-Willis, chairman, and Susan Williams-Ellis, deputy chairman

Portmeirion Potteries fires up profits

PORTMEIRION Potteries (Holdings), the Stoke-on-Trent pottery and decorated ceramic tableware group, lifted pre-tax profits 40 per cent to £1.4 million in the six months to end-June (Jon Ashworth writes).

Turnover was £10.4 million (£8.8 million) as sales at home and abroad began to pick up. Short time working and

reorganisation costs depressed the last set of results.

George Hesp, managing director, said UK sales were 15 per cent up on the first half of 1991 and margins continued to improve. His goal is to return to the £19.5 million sales achieved in 1990, which helped the company to pre-tax profits of £3.4 million for the year. "We

are unlikely to achieve that for a while," he said. "Margins have improved but sales are still lower than we'd like."

Steps to control costs and improve productivity have worked. The company plans to invest £1.5 million in new plant and equipment this year. Earnings rose 37 per cent to 8.89p (6.47p) a share. The interim dividend is held at 2.25p.

LIT gives warning on losses

BY NEIL BENNETT
BIRMINGHAM CORRESPONDENT

A FLOOD in the Chicago futures market and lower interest rates have blunted the recovery at LIT Holdings, the financial services group. The group has warned shareholders that losses will increase in the second half of the year. Pre-tax profits at LIT rose 17 per cent to £2.26 million in the first half of the year.

However, Christopher Whittington, the deputy chairman, said that the figures were worse than hoped and the group would have to renegotiate its debts with its bankers at the end of the year.

Profits at LIT America, the futures settlement business, halved to £1.06 million, due to a £1 million fall in interest received since it holds up to £200 million in liquid funds. The company was also hit by lower market volumes and the flood in the Chicago market that damaged the computers. LIT normally makes most of its money in the first half. Last year, it made a loss of £6.35 million in the second half.

Mr Whittington said: "If we lose more than that, we won't be making much of a profit at all." As a result, LIT is once again passing its interim dividend and not paying a dividend on its second preference shares.

Johnson Fry, the Business Expansion Scheme sponsor, had a strong half year and increased profits by 26 per cent to £2.41 million. The company raised £98.2 million in BES funds in the first half of the year, up from £57.1 million a year ago. Johnson Fry is trying to diversify its business.

HK appoints inspector into affairs of Allied Group

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong government has appointed Nicholas Allen, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand, to investigate the affairs of five listed companies related to Lee Ming Tee's Allied Group. Mr Allen was also asked to investigate the companies' dealings since 1990 in the shares of another five listed firms.

Dealing in the ten companies has been suspended since Wednesday afternoon. Allied Group said last night it had sought approval from the stock exchange to resume share trading on Monday.

The Securities and Futures Commission said it had re-

quested a government-appointed enquiry to look into possible breaches of the takeovers code and disclosure rules, which require directors to reveal share dealings.

The securities watchdog said the study was triggered by concerns about rights issue proposed by Wai Yick Ltd in January to fund a property acquisition from Mr Lee's company, Allied Properties (HK) Ltd. The firms with Allied Group, Crusader Holdings and Paragon Holdings and their subsidiaries, will have their affairs examined.

The SFC said it had found unusual share price move-

ments around the time of Mr Lee's proposals to merge Allied Properties, Allied Industries International and Asia Securities International with his flagship Allied Group, over the period between January 1990 and May 1992.

Allied Group issued a statement saying they did not believe the investigation "has any bearing on the underlying business operations and the asset value" of the group.

Hong Kong's share market was dragged down by uncertainty over the suspension of the companies, with the Hang Seng closing at 5,822, down 35 points.

Canada airlines merger hits turbulence

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

A PROPOSAL to merge Canada's two largest airlines, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines, has run into stiff opposition in Western Canada, with repercussions that spill over into the country's explosive national unity debate.

Political leaders in Western Canada, particularly the province of Alberta, have been seething ever since Canadian Airlines announced last month that it was prepared to enter into negotiations with its competitor. Both carriers are in deep financial trouble.

Canadian Airlines — known as Canadian Airlines International on foreign routes — is based in Calgary, Alberta. Westerners view the proposed merger as a matter of Air Canada, with headquarters in Montreal, Quebec, swallowing up Canadian Airlines. Furthermore, they accused the Federal government in Ottawa of putting pressure on Canadian Airlines to enter into merger talks, the alleged purpose being to appease Quebec. This is all extremely inflammatory in the context of

a pending referendum on sovereignty in French-speaking Quebec, tentatively scheduled for October 26.

The charges of federal government favouritism towards Quebec and Air Canada have twice been denied recently by Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister.

"This is the most distorted, unfair thing I have seen," a bristling prime minister told reporters. Far from turning its back on Canadian Airlines, the Conservative government had offered to help it, though

Mr Mulroney did not say how. Mr Mulroney did say, however, that he is heartened by the efforts of Canadian's employees and outside financial interests to raise about C\$200 million (£87 million) to keep the airline afloat. The money would be used as equity capital in a bid to encourage the reopening of negotiations between Canadian Airlines and American Airlines which broke down late last month just before Canadian entered into merger talks with Air Canada.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:			
Bass	621p (+14p)	620p (+20p)	
Whitbread 'A'	408p (+10p)	481p (+24p)	
RMC Group	460p (+11p)	376p (+11p)	
Kingfisher	439p (+18p)	128p (-16p)	
WH Smith 'A'	408p (+11p)	650p (+13p)	
BICC	259p (+14p)	553p (+14p)	
Cable Wireless	520p (+15p)	520p (+15p)	
THORN EMI	704p (+11p)	704p (+11p)	

Closing Prices Page 23

RECENT ISSUES

HSBC 75p	335 -1	
Kiwor Endowment Plc	100	
MFI Furniture (115)	117p +1p	
Quality Care Hms 10p	151	
TR Technology Units	1700	
Taunton Cedar 10p	158	
Telegraph (325)	285 +1	
Yorkshire TV Warrants	16	

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The book they tried to ban

The title Accounting for Growth was a deliberate put. We felt that much of the apparent growth in profits which had occurred in the 1980s was the result of accounting sleight of hand rather than genuine economic growth, and we set out to expose the techniques involved.

Read Terry Smith's full report — exclusive to The Sunday Times tomorrow

Shorts takes off after decades in the hangar

Under state ownership, the aerospace firm seemed doomed to be permanently grounded. Takeover by Bombardier of Canada has saved it, says Harvey Elliott

ON November 23, 1990, Brian Little, vice-president of Shorts' newly created manufacturing division, met all 107 of the business's sub-contractors and told them what they were about to change. They responded with snorts and even stifled guffaws.

They had heard it before. The struggling Northern Ireland aerospace company had been saying it through 40 years of state ownership. Since October, 1989, Shorts had had a new owner. Bombardier of Canada. But headquarters was far away and few of the specialist engineering firms that worked for Shorts believed that much would change.

Today, many of those companies are out of business — sent whirling into bankruptcy by one of the fastest changes ever seen in British aerospace manufacturing. Instead of sub-contracting precision work, Shorts now does it itself. The 107 sub-contractors of little more than 18 months ago have shrunk to 14. Costs have been cut by 30 to 50 per cent

The sub-contractors could not believe we would change so rapidly," Mr Little says.

"They have discovered the hard way that we meant it. Those that remain, and thank goodness nine of them are in Northern Ireland, took us seriously and changed their ways. Those that didn't have gone to the wall."

The government refused for years to sanction adequate investment, he says. In 1990, many lathes in the machine shop had not been replaced since the 1930s. The shop was decrepit and inefficient and lacked the capacity to produce most of the sophisticated parts demanded by the aerospace manufacturers that were Shorts' customers.

Anyone who saw the crumpling, dispirited Shorts of three years ago would not recognise today's new, bright, modern plant — and the new attitude among the 3,664 staff. Change has swept through every corner of the rambling complex on the outskirts of Belfast as a £200 million and four-year

investment programme erases the last legacies of state ownership.

Two years after being bought by Bombardier, Shorts had doubled sales, turned a £47 million loss into a £26 million profit and employed almost 1,000 more people — most of them aged under 25. Trade unions, which at first opposed privatisation and the Canadian takeover, are now solidly in favour and have signed a three-year wages deal. Under

government ownership, Shorts had a name for bad time-keeping and seemed incapable of delivering on time. Aerospace customers heard endless excuses about shortage of capacity and parts, equipment problems and inadequate quality control.

The management had drawn up a blue-print for recovery before it was known that Shorts was to be privatised. When the announcement came, potential

buyers were given a ready-made survival plan. It coincided with Bombardier's own view.

The government was made to pay for the negligence. It agreed to write off £400 million of accumulated debt and to provide a further £450 million for investment. The money now being spent on Shorts is, therefore, from the taxpayer.

Shorts' sides are not without clouds. The RAF has taken delivery of 113 of the

130 Tucano trainers it ordered and no further sales are in sight. British Aerospace is in difficulties with its four-engined 146 regional jet, for which Shorts makes the engine nacelles. Few buyers have been found for Canadian's Regional Jet, for which Shorts makes the fuselage centre section.

Shorts builds the wings of Fokker's successful family of jets, but the Dutch company is being taken over by Deutsche Aerospace, with consequences no one can foresee. Defence cuts are shrinking sales of missiles around the world.

Roy McNulty, Shorts managing director, remains optimistic. "Privatisation came in the nick of time," he says. "Bombardier regard us as long-term players in the industry and they are going to generate new projects regularly." Shorts remains "positive" about its relationship with Fokker, he says, and has a market niche in mobile air-defence missiles.

Tables are taking place with several European companies about marketing agreements and joint projects, and the company is keeping an eye open for any bits of British Aerospace that might come on to the market and fit its strategic plan. That would not have happened under government control.

Bimec cancels final and sends price plunging

SHARES in Bimec Industries, the Birmingham-based aerospace and engineering group, crashed from 19p to 3p in the wake of an announcement that it will not be able to pay its final dividend of 0.83p. The decision follows a sharp deterioration in trading conditions. Talks to sell the aerospace and industrial technology division had broken down. Business conditions deteriorated sharply and the outlook has worsened.

The shares bounced back from their early low to close at 6.1p. Earlier this week the group announced the acquisition of Peat Contract Holdings, a building and maintenance services concern, from Cannon Street Investments. The consideration comprised 3.25 million Bimec shares, to be retained by the vendor for 12 months. Bimec said the sharp share fall in no way compromised the deal.

Burns shares suspended

Shares in Burns-Anderson, the financial services and recruitment group that was expected to return to profits this year, were suspended at 2p at its request, "pending clarification of the company's financial position". The company made losses in 1990 and 1991, but Alan Gunner, finance director, said in April that operating profits this time would be enough to cover interest charges. The contract of Sir John Harvey-Jones, the chairman, ran out in 1990. His replacement was voted out at the next annual meeting.

Copier duty continues

THE European Commission will continue applying anti-dumping duties of 20 per cent on Japanese photocopiers while it carries out a fresh enquiry into the EC market. After complaints from the European Photocopy-Maker Association, the commission said it was concerned that the European industry was working at less than full capacity and not making sufficient money to produce new models. The EC photocopier market is valued at about \$2 billion a year. The EC first imposed the duties on Japanese imports in 1987.

Trimoco fears takeover

THE board at Trimoco fears that the company could be taken over because of a misunderstanding among shareholders. An offer has been made by Hartwell, a rival motor trader that was obliged to bid under the City takeover code, after increasing its holding to more than 30 per cent. Trimoco says that some shareholders are interpreting the phrase "mandatory cash offer" as

BUSINESS PROFILE: Murray Stuart

At last a true power in the land of his birth

William Kay meets the man who, after many senior posts, can still relish a new challenge with Scottish Power

Murray Stuart is a lifelong perfectionist who for many years looked doomed to disappointment. Ever since he qualified as a lawyer then as a chartered accountant, his career has been a constant search for a succession of holy grails.

First he wanted to break into business. Then he wanted to graduate from being a mere numbers man to a managing director. Finally, he says, "in the last decade, my end game was to finish up as the chairman of a significant pic". The quest has taken him to ICI, Metal Box and Berisford International, all high on the list of corporate intensive care cases but none ultimately satisfying for some of Stuart's ambition, or standards of perfection.

This month, however, he achieved his goal of an important chairmanship—and became a true power in the land of his birth. He was appointed chairman of Scottish Power, a £2 billion privatised business that has 1.7 million customers and ranks in Britain's top 50 companies.

That prestigious job is but the jewel in a portfolio of appointments that takes in Hill Samuel Bank, Save & Prosper, the Audit Commission and West Surrey and North East Hampshire Health Authority.

He is 59, which makes it late in the day to be reaching a business pinnacle. Some of his contemporaries, such as Sir Nigel Brookes or Sir John Egan, have been at the top for more than ten years. But others of Stuart's generation, like James Gulliver or Sir Terence Conran, have fallen by the wayside.

That suggests someone of strong staying power, but whose talents may be too easily underestimated. His sharp financial brain, though widely attested, is disguised beneath a shambling, bear-like frame and an outwardly easy-going manner. However, he admits to being a demanding boss. "The people I've worked best with have shared my enthusiasm and that sometimes causes minor frictions," he says. "If

someone doesn't share my enthusiasm, either you get him a different type of job, or he just has to go.

Brian Smith, chairman of BAA and Stuart's mentor at Metal Box and Berisford, says: "He is very much a perfectionist. At times he is not easy to work with because of that, but he really likes to have things right."

Stuart has been a pic chairman once before. He succeeded Smith at MB-Cardron, the revamped version of Metal Box, but after six months he fell out with the Cardron management team and quit.

He is keen to dispel any suggestion of being an ogre. "I have had two secretaries in the past 20 years, which tells you I must be reasonably tolerable to live with, part of the time. Either that or I can pick enduring secretaries."

"He's a very fair person," says Jackie Matthews, his secretary for the past ten years.

"He likes things done properly, and deep down he cares about people. He is a perfectionist and likes things done straight away, but he is always willing to listen to what you have to say. He works extremely hard and expects me to do the same." Netta, his wife of 29 years, sees him as hard-working, ambitious and home-loving. "He has not been without his worries, and we all share that with him," she told me. "But only the best will do for him. He is very caring."

When we met at Hill Samuel, where he is a vice-chairman, he was dressed in a smart grey suit and matching tie, topped by a slightly unruly tuft of brown hair. He took the trouble to fetch me himself from the waiting room. Afterwards he not only took me down in the lift, but walked me all the way to the door of the bank. Not many company chairmen go to that length. He puts it down to his Scots upbringing.

"I suppose for the purposes of this sort of declaration, I'm middle class," he said. "My father was the managing director of a medium-sized textile company in Scotland. I suppose he explains why Stuart believes he can never be it easy. "I find it very difficult to sit



Relaxing: Murray Stuart finds it hard because he always feels he should be doing something else

and I spent the first 27 and a half years of my life in growing up and being educated."

He was brought up near the Glasgow suburb of East Kilbride and had a long education — the sort that makes the Scots swell with pride, it goes on so long. He went to school at Glasgow Academy and then read history and geography at Glasgow University, where he gives the impression of having been the life and soul of the campus.

"I had a lot of activities and hobbies and things to do, a bit like now," he says. "I was flying with the university air squadron; I was playing rugby or cricket; I was chairman of the Law Society; I was a member of the Young Unionists, the Scottish name for the Young Conservatives; and I used to do lots of public speaking and things like that. So I was always very busy and I've kept it that way all my life."

This probably explains why Stuart believes he can never be it easy. "I find it very difficult to sit

down and relax," he explains, "because I feel I should be doing something. Once I had qualified, I remember travelling somewhere and thinking 'Why aren't I reading something?' That instinct of wanting to do something all the time has been with me ever since. Hopefully, as you get older you become a little bit more discerning about it and realise that activity is not the only thing."

After he had picked up his first degree, Stuart soldiered on to a law course. This was a very different matter. "In those days you attended classes at dawn and dusk, literally," he recalls. "We started at eight in the morning, did two classes and then worked in a lawyer's office, then in the evening did another two classes between six and eight, and then went home and worked. It was a very, very, different lifestyle to today's education system."

As if that were not enough, after Stuart had qualified as a lawyer the firm he was with suggested that he became a chartered accountant as well. That meant going through the same morning, noon and night routine for another three and a half years.

"That I found more rugged than the law," Stuart admits. "The examinations were harder, and I was older. It was definitely a tough time of life." But law and accountancy was a combination Stuart's firm had found useful for their commercial practice. He went back into the firm in 1961 at the princely salary of £300 a year. "I was expected to live on that," says Stuart dismissively. "But fortunately my middle-class parents were still supporting me. I went straight into industry and quadrupled my pay overnight."

He embarked on an odyssey of a dozen different organisations by joining P & W McLellan, a small quoted engineering firm. He soon wanted something bigger and better and found that such jobs were not in Scotland. Ford Motor Com-

pany was expanding, took on Stuart as an internal auditor and hopefully put him through a management development course.

"But Ford was being Americanised," he pointed out, "and that meant we had the dictat of the people in the States, who had one insatiable demand — for paper, all the time about this, about that, and we got fed up with it. A large number of people left, of whom I was one."

Stuart had then had several years in the provinces, ending in what he describes as a "boring" 18 months with J. Hepworth, the men's outfitter, before it turned itself into Next. "Out of the blue I was headhunted to become finance director of ICL," he says, "which was in one of its troubled modes. So I carted myself and my two kids, who were very small at the time, down to London and had a baptism by fire."

Stuart struck up a good relationship with Geoffrey Cross, who was running ICL. In five years they took the company from the brink of one of its near-insolvencies to the top of the earnings per share growth league. It proved an excellent stepping stone for Stuart.

"Every director, no matter what

his trade, had a collection of customers to look after," he says.

"That was very good for me. We dealt with the government, as it owned shares in ICL for part of the time. It was one of the most formative parts of my life. In a highly complex, sophisticated business, working under tremendous pressure." But it was too good to last. Cross left, there were more management changes and then Stuart had a telephone call inviting him to join Metal Box. "It was at that stage a bigger company than ICL," he says. "For the first time I was probably not gaining experience so much as using it."

Again, Stuart helped to bring recovery. In the nine years he was there, the Metal Box share price grew ten times and profits increased every half year.

After five years the group recruited Brian Smith as chairman from ICI and they hammered out the Carnaud-Metal Box merger. That left them with the building products division and the subsequent Canadian merger which led to Smith's retirement and Stuart's departure.

"My intention was to pick up

some non-executive activities," says Stuart. "Instead, Brian asked me to help him out at Berisford. It was a rather longer interlude than I had planned." Berisford was the commodity-trading business which was quickly being swallowed by its debts. Smith and Stuart sold businesses worth £1.3 billion, including British Sugar for £900 million.

Stuart was again working long hours. "It was one of the archetypal situations where the chairman and chief executive and other members of the board were given far too much authority," he says. "And the banks just fell over themselves to lend Berisford money."

Stuart has understandably little sympathy for the banks. "They couldn't distinguish between giving us a rough time and the original people who had caused all the difficulty," he says. "Very strange, I much prefer the more conventional atmosphere. There wasn't much difficulty about choosing to go to Scottish Power."

He clearly intends to make the most of his time, probably diversifying the company into telecommunications and other non-regulated activities. "There's a lot to be done," he says, "because I'd like to leave it a bigger company than it is."

"My preference is to be seen as somebody who built things rather than as somebody who truncated things."

and Hill Samuel's City base, which he uses to keep an ear to the ground on behalf of his cohorts north of the border. In between times he takes off in a sea-going motor boat moored at Poole Harbour.

Stuart met Netta on holiday in Scotland. She was a physiotherapist but now runs two ballet schools in Surrey, where their main home is. That echoes the talents of Alison, their daughter. Stuart proudly relates how she has won international ballet competitions and hopes to turn professional next year.

His son, David, is between business degrees at Buckingham and Lancaster universities. "The problem with a life like mine," Stuart laments, "is that you become totally involved in your work, and suddenly you turn round and see these teenagers and probably you haven't spent as much time with them as other parents have."

"That's irreplaceable."

Matthew Bond

Dorrell's hand on the pump gives new meaning to inflation in the economy

JUST a few short weeks ago Stephen Dorrell was... well, not exactly a household figure. But now the name of the financial secretary to the Treasury falls regularly from the most distinguished lips.

The slightest quiver in the economic statistics, and the cry goes up: "What does Dorrell think?" or "Has Dorrell spoken?" Lesser minds among the business and political communities hang on his every word: "Good old Dorrell, he'll tell us what to do." So ubiquitous has he become, that it is difficult to recall the vacuum he now so awesomely fills.

Conservative faint-hearts and economic pundits tremble at the mere mention of his name, less it unleash another slingshot of well-aimed rhetoric. Economic fixes will not be quick; currencies will not be devalued and — above all — terminal gloom will not be talked into. Dorrell, you see, has spoken.

Carpe diem may be a good enough motto for most men of action, but not for our hero. For Mr Dorrell was not as much seized the day, as seized the summer holiday. Not for him the golden beaches of Barbados or verdant hills of Tuscany. Instead, he has spent his August at work basking in the unfamiliar glare of the media spotlight.

But that is not to say that the industrious minister is: missing out on the holiday spirit altogether. A sun-obsessed tabloid press and a regular supply of saucy "weather lovely, glad you're still there" postcards from his colleagues has made sure of that. In particular, Mr Dorrell — a man keen to put the best possible front on otherwise modest figures — has become intrigued by the potential offered by the latest thing in beach chic, the inimitable bikini top.

He believes a simple modification of this ingenious device could be just the thing for the ailing British economy and distinctly soggy pound. So while the Tokyo and London stock markets have their support levels (don't they?) and the dollar gets its uplift from a



new 24-hour girdle of central bank intervention, the British economy is once again to be fitted with a corset. But this time it is to be inflatable.

A carefully concealed pump hidden somewhere between invisible earnings and the central statistical office will allow the corset to be discreetly inflated, painfully squeezing most of the life out of the economy, but protecting the sort of athletic V shape so beloved by foreign exchange dealers and so feared by the German beach bullies. You know, the ones who are always the first to the interest rate change. But not for much longer if Mr Dorrell gets his way... and the elastic holds.

Already there are a few tentative signs that this come-the-staff-in-the-economic-silhouette could actually work. How else do you explain that the government was able to produce statistics that unexpectedly showed both industri-

al and manufacturing output rising, just 24 hours after the Confederation of British Industry reported that most of its members were seeing output falling?

Either it is Mr Dorrell and his pump, or the CBI and the government, no longer speak the same language, a possibility reinforced by the government stating that annual pay rises are running at 6 per cent just 48 hours after the CBI had plumped for a figure rather closer to 4 per cent.

And what about the government's confidence in announcing that it was considering a plan to cut the eligibility period for claimants to receive unemployment benefit by half, just two days before the unemployment figures hit a five-year high? Gross insensitivity, or the certain knowledge that Mr Dorrell's pneumatic corset was about to shift the unwanted burden somewhere less conspicuous?

After all, look at his success with interest rates. On Monday, the Skipton Building Society decided that the solution to its funding problem lay with higher mortgage rates: sparking alarm far beyond the house market. However, a vigorous bout of Dorelian pumping later and the rest of the industry opted for lower savings rates instead. The relief was almost tangible. Keep pumping, Mr Dorrell. Only a fortnight to go.

FOR housebuilders, the past few months are proof of the old adage that things are never so bad that they cannot get worse — the industry incurred, on one estimate, £1 billion of trading losses and write-downs, admitted or yet to come, last year.

A year ago, even the most pessimistic observers were prepared to countenance some recovery in the second half of this year against a background of falling mortgage rates. As the peak summer selling season for homes draws to a close, any upturn has now been pushed firmly into next year or even 1994.

House prices are expected to continue to fall. Morgan Grenfell confirmed last week in a gloomy forecast, with the South East again worst hit. Mortgage rates are, if not under pressure, certainly in no position now to offer a quick kick-start to the housing market.

Further pain can be expected in this autumn's interim results season. Analysts believe several builders have still not brought book values of their stock and land down to realistic levels. Those that recover fastest and prosper in the 1990s will inevitably be the ones with sufficient supplies of the right land and low debt.

Describing such a mythical beast is easy but they are in rather short supply on the stock market. Prices have plummeted since post-election highs and some may have fallen too far.

Andrew Melrose, construction analyst at Nomura Research Institute, emphasises he is not a buyer of the sector, but likes Tay Homes, which has the benefits of concentration in Scotland and the north of England and a long, well-consented landbank, which gives it the chance to boost volumes sharply in future, the key to success in a time of low asset price inflation. But he cautions that Tay is weighed down with high debt.

The shares have been as

high as 235p this summer and now, at 161p, sell on 7.5 times earnings to end-June, about half the expected average multiple for contracting and construction as a whole for 1992.

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Tay Homes does not come cheap as Tay. The shares have also come back sharply this summer, from a high of 307p, and at 203p, sell on 12.6 times earnings to end-July and ten times 1992.

David Mathews at James Capel, while pointing out that Tay is broker to the company, picks Wilson Bowden, a conservative business that enjoys low gearing and a land bank good for half a decade. The shares have fallen further than most.

Seeking gloss finish: Mike Hennessy of Kalon, which has bid for Manders

brand products, chiefly Dulux. But they were always going to prove too tempting for its DIY customers.

Kalon/Manders

THE paint appears to have dried for Kalon and its unwanted bid for Manders (Holdings). With less than a week to go, Manders shares have stuck at about 211p, more than 20p shy of Kalon's all-share offer, and 30p below the combined cash and share terms.

Having made much of the running, Kalon has lost its way and certainly missed a trick in not issuing a profit forecast for the full year with its interim results month, particularly after pouring scorn on Manders's own forecast a few days earlier. The market was bound to wonder whether the Kalon board was growing twitchy about the second half.

Profit margins were wrenched wider during the recession, when Kalon took advantage of the growing preference for cheaper prices on its hands.

Paint label against

brand products, chiefly Dulux. But they were always going to prove too tempting for its DIY customers.

Locked in a vicious price war.

And Mike Hennessy, managing director, must also put more non-core reorganisation costs through the profit and loss account.

That Kalon's record is the stronger of the two brooks no dispute, but how much does its management need Manders's paint business to sustain its performance?

Manders, meanwhile, still fails to impress, despite vague promises of future gloss. It can, however, count on income from its Manders Centre retail property to underpin earnings and almost finance the dividend alone.

Kalon's case has not been completely convincing, and its stringiness with cash a little disappointing, as a result it may get the brush-off. If so, Manders should lose no time putting itself on the back. For a start, it will probably have a falling share price on its hands.

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1992

Savers no longer feel rich



LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

THE fall in the inflation rate during July may have been greeted with less than euphoria by most savers yesterday. The new annual inflation rate of 3.7 per cent is down 0.2 per cent but their interest rates have fallen further in real terms.

Most, however, do not feel rich in real terms, despite entreaties to do so by the savings institutions that are cutting interest rates. It is fine for savers to be told they are getting historically high real interest rates. Convincing them is another matter.

Weekend Money receives many letters from people who depend on the interest earned on savings to supplement their income. The letters ask how they are better off. For example, they say that 18 months ago they received £3,000 in interest on savings. Now, after moving accounts to keep with the best rates, they are receiving £2,200. They do not feel better off and, because living costs are rising, they have to use capital to replace the shortfall in income and to make up for inflation.

They ask why they are better off when they have to raid £1,000 a year

from their savings. It makes little difference to them whether it is withdrawn to be spent or its value is eroded by inflation. They feel richer if they do not have to raid their savings and they would appreciate a little honesty rather than politicians and savings institutions telling them they have never been luckier.

They will welcome the Abbey National's decision to do nothing about its mortgage rates or its savers' rates this week. As a publicly quoted company, Abbey has shareholders to keep happy, unlike the building societies. But it says it can continue with the current margins between savers' and mortgage rates.

The government has cut National Savings' rates twice in the past month but they are still attractive and Abbey National is aware that people who are struggling to manage on the income from their savings will be attracted to better

rates on offer elsewhere, especially if these carry the guarantee of the government. No other financial institution has such security. But with every cut in rates, thousands of savers look at what they are being paid and what else is on offer and make a move. Those who feel poorer as savings rates fall could be tempted to deposit their money with disreputable companies because they appear to offer the best rates.

There has been a steady flight to quality in the past few years. Memories of Barlow Clowes were compounded by the Bank of Credit

and Commerce International. Numerous savers only put £20,000 with any one building society for fear of it folding and the compensation scheme being called into play. But still they worry. The best rates always seem to be offered by the smaller organisations that they have not heard of. That is why these organisations have to offer such rates and why investors need to be wary.

Innocent suffer

IT IS four years since the government launched its 'pensions revolution'

pensions taken out between July 1988 and December 1991. It estimates that policyholders could have lost up to £500 because of the delays. Other life offices, including Scottish Amicable, Scottish Provident, Standard Life and Legal & General have several thousand cases outstanding.

The social security department and the life offices are pointing accusatory fingers at each other, as institutions have a habit of doing. The DSS says it has not received forms. Life offices say these have either been lost by the DSS or wrongly calculated.

As life offices and the social security department appear to be bywords for administrative inefficiency, it is most likely that both sides are responsible for the present confusion. Doubtless this will emerge in the meetings being held between insurers and the social security department.

But the people who suffer are, as always, innocent policyholders. Both sides now need to move quickly to pay compensation to all those affected.

Students struggle to meet mounting debts

Liz Dolan reports that the average amount owed on leaving further education is £1,765



"Grant didn't cover rent": Shelley Harknett could not afford to complete her course

AS PROSPECTIVE higher education students tear open A level results and dream of three years of study and fun, many of those already at college and university are struggling to feed, clothe and house themselves. The steep increase in student debt has sparked numerous calls for help from organisations ranging from those with an obvious axe to grind, such as the National Union of Students, to more neutral bodies, such as the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (NACAB) and Barclays Bank.

A Barclays report, out next week, calculates that the average student leaving college this year will owe £1,765. Male students will have borrowed, on average, nearly 30 per cent more than females in the three years.

Despite its recent introduction, the government's student loan scheme will represent the largest single source of debt at 31 per cent. Bank overdrafts account for 25 per cent and borrowing from families 21 per cent. About 40 per cent of respondents were angry at being unwillingly forced into debt: 12 per cent feared they would never repay their debts or were concerned about the length of time it would take them to do so.

Because of the student loan scheme, introduced in September 1990, overall student debt is set to rise steeply. In three years, average debt at the end of a three-year course is unlikely to be below £2,800, the report, *Marketing to Students*, said.

Some students are so bogged down by their financial problems that they leave college or university. The survey said: "While debt is only ever one factor in such a radical decision, it is a major factor. Fear that funds will run out before the end of the course, coupled with the fear of a debt mountain at graduation, are a barrier to course completion."

Barclays commissioned the survey, carried out by the NUS's marketing division, so that it could help its customers cope with their finances.

A Barclays spokesman said: "Our student banking officers have been reporting a surprising degree of ignorance among students about options available to them. Only by gathering this information and finding out the problems involved can we try and stop them getting into trouble - for both our sakes." The

survey said: "Over the past seven years, the government changes to benefit regulations have steadily eroded a major source of student income. The recent recession has destroyed a high proportion of vacation jobs. Hence, we would expect student debt to be on a sharp rise at present."

However, because the concept of student loans and working ones is still increasing through college are now to British students, there was likely to be more anxiety while debts were still increasing than when they reached a higher, but more stable, level. NACAB is monitoring the situation with a view to producing a report in the autumn. The survey, *Diminishing Options*, published last year, was dismissed by the government as "totally anecdotal". Consequently, all CABs have been detailed to collect statistical evidence.

Joe Gibbons, of NACAB, said: "It's too early to say what has been happening, but I can imagine the situation has improved." Cindy Rowley, head of the NUS research department, said students were still awaiting the findings of a House of Commons select committee which looked at the subject. She said: "We have always said the loan system is a very expensive way of financing students. It won't pay for itself until 2020. We think that money would have been better spent on grants."

Ms Rowley, an American who came to Britain to do her masters' degree, said the American system on which the new British one was modelled, was showing signs of falling apart. About 22 per cent of former students were defaulting on government loans. Enrolments were decreasing as fees and living expenses burgeoned and more and more students were being forced to study locally. This was the solution suggested by many MPs in Britain, she said, but "leaving home to study is a necessary part of growing up for many people."

We would expect student debt to be on a sharp rise at present

Counting the cost of grants and loans

STUDENTS living away from home and studying in London now receive a maximum grant of £3,675, falling to £3,450 in their final year. Those outside London receive £2,980 or £2,790. Those living at home receive up to £2,365, or £2,210 (Liz Dolan writes).

Loans on the same basis are £230 and £605; £715 and £525; £570 and £415. Repayments start the April after the course ends. The loans are repaid in roughly equal amounts by direct debit over the succeeding five years for three-year courses, or seven years for longer periods of study. Repayment is deferred for the unemployed or people earning less than 85 per cent of the national average wage. From August 1, 1992, deferral is granted to those whose gross income is £1,130 a month or less. Many students are still unaware that

these loans are index-linked. Interest is charged at a daily rate from the time the loan is taken out. In the first year of operation, interest was charged at 9.8 per cent. In the second year, just finished, it was reduced to 5.8 per cent. The rate for next year is 3.9 per cent.

The loans company employs debt collectors to deal with overdue repayments. Defaulters may also be taken to court and may be fined, or even sent to prison. The government says that, as only 38 per cent of eligible students applied for a loan last year, most appear to be managing satisfactorily on their grants. However, the NUS maintains that students see loans as a last resort.

The abolition of DSS benefits for students was partially softened by the introduction of an Access Fund for people in severe financial difficulties. This was

increased this year from £25 million to £26.2 million. The NUS points out that, in its last year of operation, the benefits system paid £68 million to qualifying students in rent and income supplements. In addition, the fund is apportioned to individual colleges and universities who operate the scheme independently. Many of these institutions ran out of money early in the last academic year. The education department said that £50,000 is left in the fund, but there was no way that those in need at a college whose funds have run out have access to the residue.

Some of the most severe financial problems have arisen among people who do not qualify for mandatory grants. Some local education authorities have no money left to spend on discretionary grants.

One "revolutionary" act was to tell people they would be free to opt out of the straitjacket of the state earnings-related pension scheme and arrange to have monthly payments diverted to their personal pension. The money could grow more quickly in a personal pension than in Serps, so benefiting future pensioners. At the same time, the government could start to rid itself of an expensive state scheme.

The least anyone playing the government's game has a right to expect is that the administrative system would run smoothly. But it does not and never has done, despite having had years to sort itself out.

This week, it emerged that tens of thousands of people have not had rebates paid into their schemes. Some of these date back to July 1988. Nearly 9,000 customers of only one life office, Laurentian, have not had rebates paid into personal

pensions taken out between July 1988 and December 1991. It estimates that policyholders could have lost up to £500 because of the delays. Other life offices, including Scottish Amicable, Scottish Provident, Standard Life and Legal & General have several thousand cases outstanding.

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As life offices and the social security department appear to be bywords for administrative inefficiency, it is most likely that both sides are responsible for the present confusion. Doubtless this will emerge in the meetings being held between insurers and the social security department.

But the people who suffer are, as always, innocent policyholders. Both sides now need to move quickly to pay compensation to all those affected.

Balancing studies with the need to work to survive

seven days a week. "I have no days off. It's either college or Disney. And there is no extra money. I need it all just to live. Our Access Fund was frozen half way through the first term because they spent too much money the year before," she said. Both Ms Shah and Ms Lafferty live at home but still say they need to work to survive.

Mr Stockton said: "The increasing hardship means that, very soon, higher education is only going to be available to people of means. That contradicts the entire purpose of higher education as a way to better yourself in society." He added that he had been forced to take a job because of the abolition of housing benefit and the introduction of poll tax. His security has been further threatened by a first-time tax demand this summer, despite being a full-time student.

The students say their relationships with their banks varies, depending on how they are treated by their bank managers. One said her manager shows great concern, going to the extent of checking up on her eating habits. All were fully versed in the relative merits of student accounts. A significant majority had been tempted by Barclays £25 cash offer in preference to other incentives.

Liz DOLAN

PEP M&G DIVIDEND PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH

Year Ended 31st Dec	£6,000 Lump Sum			£50 per month			
	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross	Gross Building Society	Amount Invested	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross	Gross Building Society
6.5.1964	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£50	£50	£50	£50
1964	5,795	5,795	6,230	350	319	319	357
1965	6,504	6,672	6,683	950	974	992	1,001
1966	6,120	6,360	7,094	1,550	1,456	1,487	1,693
1967	7,224	7,728	7,610	2,150	2,331	2,424	2,439
1968	9,900	10,872	8,187	2,750	3,866	4,087	3,249
1969	8,256	9,252	8,872	3,350	3,766	4,022	4,148
1970	8,376	9,636	9,634	3,950	4,411	4,784	5,132
1971	12,696	15,036	10,437	4,550	7,452	8,236	6,186
1972	15,695	18,960	11,286	5,150	9,839	11,017	7,315
1973	11,832	14,496	12,395	5,750	7,869	8,878	8,667
1974	7,224	9,036	13,810	6,350	5,225	5,956	10,294
1975	16,164	20,760	15,373	6,950	12,446	14,446	12,095
1976	15,540	20,436	17,078	7,550	12,512	14,770	14,072
1977	24,695	33,288	18,939	8,150	20,559	24,739	16,241
1978	27,396	37,812	20,817	8,750	23,390	28,689	18,482
1979	28,476	40,176	23,434	9,350	24,848	31,022	21,448
1980	32,436	46,836	27,023	9,950	28,864	36,727	25,386
1981	37,464	55,488	30,688	10,550	33,929	44,107	29,470
1982	45,672	69,288	34,667	11,150	41,981	55,699	33,931
1983	65,964	102,180	38,362	11,750	61,304	82,815	38,180
1984	90,504	142,368	42,722	12,350	84,781	116,061	43,157
1985	112,968	180,180	48,189	12,950	106,466	147,530	49,323
1986	152,352	245,892	53,615	13,550	144,214	201,966	55,610
1987	184,243	300,696	59,392	14,150	174,961	247,537	62,125
1988							



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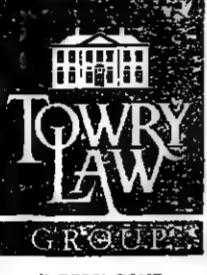
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Customers see Saturday banking as their right

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

SATURDAY mornings would not be complete without queuing in a bank or building society to pay in cheques or query statements. Yet for 13 years, banks closed on Friday afternoon and did not open again until Monday morning.

Ten years ago, Barclays reversed the decision to close on Saturdays when building society savings accounts started rivalling banks' deposit accounts.

Staff at one branch had to cross a picket line when the bank revived Saturday opening on August 14, 1982. Saturday opening was unpopular with some staff, despite an extra £5 million spent that year to compensate them for working on Saturday mornings, but customers now regard it as an unassailable right.

Now that building societies and some banks are opening into the afternoon, the pressure is towards longer Saturday opening. Barclays started by opening 33 branches and a month later added another 367 branches. Other banks lagged behind as they negotiated with the staff before opening their doors at the weekend.

National Westminster started opening on Saturdays again in 1985. More than 230 of its branches are open from 9.30am to 3.30pm, although there is no counter service for cashing cheques. Customers can query accounts, set up facilities and use machines in the branches or outside to obtain cash.

At first, the branches were open for three hours in the mornings. That was extended last year because of customer demand.

Lloyds began opening on Saturdays in February 1985 and now has 186 branches open from 9.30am to 12.30pm although there is no counter service for cashing cheques or making deposits.

Midland started opening on Saturdays in November 1987. It now has 205 branches open from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 90 open from



Times gone by: Saturday opening at Barclays, ten years ago

9.30am to 3.30pm. None offers a counter service.

Barclays offers a full counter service at the 420 branches that are now open on Saturdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Last year, 6 million customers used Barclays branches on Saturdays. In addition to normal banking transactions, the bank received 107,000 plastic card applications, opened 42,000 deposit accounts and 68,000 cheque accounts and discussed more than 3,500 mortgage applications on Saturdays.

Cash dispensers within branches were used 3.8 million times during the year. Those on the walls outside branches are used 15 million times a month.

The banks had decided together in 1969 that there was little demand for their services on Saturday. They were also having difficulty in recruiting staff. Since 1982, Saturday work has been voluntary for Barclays staff.

During the 13 years that the banks reverted to a five-day week, building societies increased their deposits 30 per cent. Now the building societies

are complaining that they are losing money to National Savings and elsewhere.

Sir John Quinton, Barclays chairman, said: "With Saturday opening, we wanted to offer a better service to our customers. By doing so, we also intended to attract the private customers back to us whom we had lost to the building societies as a result of the decision to close on Saturdays in 1969."

Barclays is now looking at telephone banking, postal accounts and improving cash dispensers. It is also using a Smart (Salient Multi-Attribute Research Technique) to find out what customers expect of their bank. The bank is aware that 70 per cent of its customers have some kind of a relationship with a building society.

The Halifax Building Society opens more than 100 of its branches on Saturday afternoons. All are open on Saturday mornings. Most of the Saturday afternoon branches offer an advice service and those within shopping centres offer the society's full range of business.

Abbey National has always opened on Saturday mornings and, two years ago, it extended the opening hours to 4pm in about 250 of its 683 branches.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has about 20 branches open from 9am to 5pm and the rest are open from 9am to 1pm.

True meaning of life insurance can be lost in the quest for rates growth and bonuses

From G.S. Stoney

Sir, Regarding Mr B.S. Rooney's letter (August 8), where as he had 40 years experience of the insurance profession, I can only claim 27. Nevertheless,

less, it is my belief that life insurance (or "assurance") in England lost its way some 50 to 60 years ago. Many people who were acting as intermediaries at that stage did not

Responsibility for mortgage troubles

From a retired bank manager

Sir, Regarding the article (August 8) about the problems faced by the mortgage borrowers whose loans are now in excess of the values of their properties. Given the natural desire of couples to own a home (especially since it seemed a certain way to build up capital), there is little doubt who bears the main responsibility for the present crisis.

Those culpable are the government and the lending institutions. The government because it removed virtually all controls on lending and ended double tax relief on mortgage interest in the most inept way. The lending institutions because they fell over each other to offer ridiculously generous packages, hoping to retain/increase market share.

If mortgage advances had been used only for house purchase, restricted to a reasonable proportion of the values of properties, say 70-75 per cent, and income criteria had been more rigorous, say three times earnings, the present problems would certainly not have been so serious.

Those culpable are the government and the lending institutions.

The economy would probably not have grown as fast, but the rate of increase might have been more sustainable.

Until about four years ago, I was a bank manager and was forced, if I wished to retain my position, to contribute to the potentially disastrous lending bubble, which has now burst.

My lending discretion, at least to say "no", was effectively removed and I was set targets that could only be met by ignoring my lending training.

Some of my managerial colleagues felt as I did and we said so at meetings, but our misgivings were pooh-poohed. It seemed that marketing had replaced well-established banking principle as the order of the day. The lending lessons that we had learned over the years, especially in the early 70's, were ignored. Now the banks' good customers and staffs are paying the price and it affords me no pleasure at all to say "I told you so."

Yours faithfully,

Ascot, Berkshire.

American bargains?

From Dr Myer Goldman

Sir, With reference to the article on buying goods from America (Weekend Money, August 8), may I urge caution? Consider the situation if you need to exchange them, for instance, for a different size.

We bought a pair of Levi jeans from the USA as a present for our son which were too small.

He returned them (postage £6), and the store in Boston charged an additional £25 postage and packing (£13.50).

HM Customs & Excise then added £6.16 import duty, £8.78 VAT, and a "Parcelforce clearance fee" of £3.50: total £18.44.

Thus the original cost of the jeans of \$34.95 (£18.40) has now become £56.34, i.e. £20 more than the price in this country.

Some bargain!

Yours faithfully,

MYER GOLDMAN,

36 Druids Cross Gardens,

Liverpool.

experience, once you start talking of growth rates and bonuses, you are set to lose the meaning of life insurance. This is part of the reason why the Financial Services Act of 1986 has been so wide of the mark. It has been swatting the wrong flies. (There were plenty of people saying this to Professor Gower at the time!)

Yours faithfully,

G.S. STONEY,

Mapledown,

Malthouse Close,

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Englishman says front row crucial in Hungary

Mansell calm as Williams team-mate sets the pace

FROM NORMAN HOWELL
IN BUDAPEST

THE first practice session for the Hungarian grand prix here tomorrow ended yesterday with two Williams-Renaults in first and second place. This is a familiar enough outcome these days, but yesterday it was Riccardo Patrese, rather than Nigel Mansell, who took provisional pole position. Mansell will clinch the drivers' championship in record time if he wins tomorrow's race.

The time difference between the drivers is minimal, merely a tenth of a second, while the gap between the grid's front row and Ayrton Senna, yet again the first of the chasing pack, is just under a second.

So, the much heralded narrowing of the gap between those who had the best fuel and the others has not eventuated. Fisa, the sport's governing body, had issued a warning concerning the legality of some fuels. This had caused all teams to bring canisters of commercial fuel, and it had been felt that this would inhibit Williams.

Not only did it not do so, but two other drivers who also normally use Elf fuel had rather good results. Thierry Boutsen and Erik Comas took their Ligiers to sixth and eighth place, respectively. It has been announced, however, that Boutsen is to leave Ligier at the end of the season.

"I didn't take up my option [to stay with Ligier] so I'll have to look for another drive," Boutsen, 35, who has not won any world championship points this season, said.

Most, if not all teams yester-



Leader of the chasing pack: Senna was fastest behind the Williams cars

day used commercial fuel, something that many within Williams and Renault feel will penalise them. Peter Windsor, the team manager, thought so, as did Bernard Dufour, the Renault engineer in charge of engines. Patrese seemed to

think it made no difference, while Mansell hinted at secret remedies to overcome the perceived handicap.

Mansell made light of what was rather a quiet day for him. "It was a tough session. I spun off, but the real problem was the dust and dirt on the track, caused by so many drivers spinning off into the sand and then coming back on. It causes the tyres to lose adhesion each time you drive on some muck, and it takes at least two laps for the tyres to grip properly."

The Englishman was relaxed when describing the difficulty of driving on the Hungaroring circuit. "It's a Mickey Mouse track, let's be honest about it. The pole position is not vital, but being on the front row is."

But Mansell has shown that

he can start from a long way back on this track and still win, as he did in 1989 when driving a Ferrari. That, one of the best moments in motor racing's recent memory, it went some way to atone for his disappointment two years before, when a rogue wheel nut lost him the world title.

The tide must be on his this time round. Senna once said that to win a world championship you have to race brilliantly and carefully, and that you cannot make mistakes, because you are sure to have some bad luck. This season Mansell has had one instance of bad luck, in Monaco, and has made one mistake, in Canada. But such is his margin that he can afford to drop a few more points and still win the championship with ease.

The 49ers aim to improve on a record of ten wins and six defeats that failed to provide a play-off position for the first time since 1982. Joe Montana has not recovered from two operations on his throwing elbow and his future as a player must be in doubt.

Steve Young will start tomorrow after pre-season wins over the Denver Broncos and the Los Angeles Raiders. The globe-trotting 49ers will want to redress three American Bowl defeats, including the one at Wembley in 1988.

AMERICAN BOWL RESULTS: London 1982: 49ers 20, Rams 14; Denver 1987: Los Angeles, Rams 26, Denver Broncos 21; 1988: Miami Dolphins 27, San Francisco 19; 1989: Denver 21, San Francisco 13; 1990: Denver 20, Rams 13; 1991: Orleans 17, Los Angeles Raiders 10; 1991: Buffalo Bills 17, Philadelphia Eagles 13.

GOLF

Title sits easily on McKay

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE weight of expectation proved no handicap to Mhairi McKay, the latest great Scottish hope, as she beat Sara Beaufort, of Spain, by two and one to win the British girls' championship at Northamptonshire County yesterday.

"She's meant to win, isn't she?" one old codger said, a tad dismissively, on being told that McKay was two up with four to play. That is part of the problem of having Tony Jacklin say that you are the most talented teenager he has seen since Seve.

Mckay, still only 17, is the first Scot — and the first Briton — to win the title since Myra McKinlay in 1989, and she was relieved to take the trophy. "All the matches were tough in their own way," she said.

In the semi-finals, McKay beat Gail Spreafico, of Italy, and Beaufort, a 16-year-old Canarian from Tenerife, beat Vanessa Vignali, from Castellon.

RESULTS: Semi-finalists: M McKay (1), G Spreafico (2), S Beaufort (3), Vignali (4). Final: McKay beat Beaufort, 2, and second, third semi-finalists: K Rostrom (Finland) 2nd G Spreafico (Italy) 3rd. Finalists: 1991: Siga (R) vs K Anderson (Swe) 4, and 2nd Siga vs Rostrom, 5 and 4.

GOING: GOOD (TURF); STANDARD (ALL WEATHER) 6/6 DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS (TURF); LOW (ALL WEATHER)

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1. 3501 CROWN LANE 16 M Chelmsf 8-11

2. 3502 CROWN LANE 17 F Chelmsf 8-11

3. 3503 KALOKATHIAS 14 C Chelmsf 9-0

4. 3504 KALOKATHIAS 15 F Chelmsf 9-0

5. 3505 ALTON BELLE 28 P Newbury 9-0

6. 3506 BASHAMM 43 C Britain 9-0

7. 3507 BASHAMM 44 C Britain 9-0

8. 3508 BASHAMM 45 F Britain 9-0

9. 3509 SHANTI FLYER 15 F Newbury 9-0

10. 3510 SHANTI FLYER 16 F Newbury 9-0

11. 3542 SUPER SANTA 15 F Newbury 8-0

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91. 3522 SUPER SANTA 95 F Newbury 8-0

92. 3523 SUPER SANTA 96 F Newbury 8-0

93. 3524 SUPER SANTA 97 F Newbury 8-0

Stephenson underlines his value to champions

Essex frustrated as Pollard shows his defensive qualities

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

COLCHESTER (first day of three; Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 247 for eight wickets against Essex

THIS has been a chastening week for Essex. Two possible trophies have slipped away in a manner of five days, and yesterday, when they relied on the start of Colchester week to arrest a decline in their championship form, they were met first by a flooded square and then by Paul Pollard at his most adhesive.

The champions needed 55 minutes to import four pitch-length mats from Chelmsford to cover the saturated areas. They needed another 258 minutes to dislodge Pollard, who survived a confident lead before appeal from Pringle before he had scored and then plunged his front foot down the pitch to numb everything Essex could offer.

Pollard began his career as a dasher but has long since banished such frivolity and joined Middleton, Curtis and Moles among the productive blockers of the game. Watching him make his 65 was not easy on the eye but, in the context of this high-altitude match, it was torture for Essex.

Conditions were good for bowling all day but Nottinghamshire were first sustained by Pollard and then nourished by a contrastingly assertive

half-century from Chris Cairns. If Essex finished slightly ahead it was not through the efforts of the two obvious bowlers.

Graham Gooch had turned to John Stephenson as a sooth resort and, swinging the ball consistently, he picked up the first five-wicket analysis of his burgeoning all-round career.

Tim Robinson will have

thought hard before deciding to bat first. The pitch was wet in the middle, where 13 hours had leaked through the covers, but dry and bare at the ends. With two spinners in his side, a tactic shared by Essex, he plainly decided they would be helped even more, and he should be right.

Essex, who have lost their last three first-class games, were still quoted at 5-2 for the championship yesterday morning. But this is the game they cannot afford to lose, and they could have done without yet more team reorganisation enforced by the injury to their wicketkeeper, Mike Garnham, at Leicester.

Garnham was here yesterday, sporting 16 stiches above and below his right eye. His place went to Adrian Brown, who ironically left the Essex staff when Garnham was signed four seasons ago.

Brown, 30, has since been schoolmastering in Ipswich and playing Minor Counties cricket for Suffolk. He con-

fessed to having been a bundle of nerves since Keith Fletcher telephoned him on Thursday afternoon.

It did not look that way. He took to the job instantly, and his leggy stamping of a restless Randall, off Stephenson, was one of the features of the day.

The first two wickets fell to

catches by Gooch, once a commonplace event but, of late, somewhat rare. Pictures of the old chap studying his errant hands in anguish have been too familiar this year, which explains the hilarity when he pounced Broad at second slip. His second catch, again off Pringle, was the old Gooch, swooping to his left at gully to take Robinson one-handed.

Overcast skies, a low, seaming pitch and a slow outfield were all ideal for Pringle, whose first two spells produced one for 11 and two for 14. After Robinson came Crawley, who shouldered arms to the inswinger, first ball, and lost his off stump.

Stephenson pushed Nottinghamshire to the brink by removing Randall and Lewis in consecutive overs but Pollard and Cairns added 73 and the New Zealander, who has grown in conviction as the season has gone on, will be helped even more, and he should be right.

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Pulling power: Broad found the boundary with this stroke at Colchester

Kendrick enlivens the Oval

By JACK BAILEY

THE OVAL (first day of three; Leicestershire won toss; Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 17 runs behind Derbyshire)

FOR all its allure and crooked spire, Chesterfield has not gladdened Kentish men down the years. On their last visits here, Christopher Cowdrey learned he had lost the England captaincy and then, having lost a Sunday match, resigned the leadership of his county. Yesterday, though, they out-bowled and out-batted Derbyshire, giving a fillip to their chances of winning the championship.

Kent are in third place in the table, with matches

against other contenders, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, to follow. Their fortune here was to win the toss but everything else they achieved owed much to perspicacity and, when Ward was in, the ability to take on quick bowlers on a bouncy pitch.

There was plenty of movement in the morning and that, coupled with injudicious selection of shots, led to Derbyshire making no more than 207. An unlikely partnership between Krikken and Warner accounted for 59 of these. Those two, and especially Ward, proved that in such conditions it was best to put bat to ball.

Even Benson and Taylor

ing commitments. He looked set for a hundred yesterday until he played a casual stroke and was caught for 82. With Phil Tufnell proving too much for the tailenders, with the exception of Jeremy Batty, Yorkshire were dismissed for 286. Middlesex taking maximum bowling points.

Hugh Morris's sixth century of the season put Glamorgan firmly in control of the tailend struggle with Durham at Harlepool, where Tony Cottey made 91 before the declaration at 396 for six.

Even Benson and Taylor

had to bat on. The last four wickets fell to Pollard, who had been dropped by Middlesex at Uxbridge yesterday, may be succeeded by the West Indies captain, Richie Richardson, as the county's overseas player next year (Geoffrey Wheeler

and H Morris not out). Extras (0-3, 14, 102) Total (4 wkt, 102) 207

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-14, 3-103, 4-102, 5-108, 6-109, 7-110, 8-111, 9-112, 10-113, 11-114, 12-115, 13-116, 14-117, 15-118, 16-119, 17-120, 18-121, 19-122, 20-123, 21-124, 22-125, 23-126, 24-127, 25-128, 26-129, 27-130, 28-131, 29-132, 30-133, 31-134, 32-135, 33-136, 34-137, 35-138, 36-139, 37-140, 38-141, 39-142, 40-143, 41-144, 42-145, 43-146, 44-147, 45-148, 46-149, 47-150, 48-151, 49-152, 50-153, 51-154, 52-155, 53-156, 54-157, 55-158, 56-159, 57-160, 58-161, 59-162, 60-163, 61-164, 62-165, 63-166, 64-167, 65-168, 66-169, 67-170, 68-171, 69-172, 70-173, 71-174, 72-175, 73-176, 74-177, 75-178, 76-179, 77-180, 78-181, 79-182, 80-183, 81-184, 82-185, 83-186, 84-187, 85-188, 86-189, 87-190, 88-191, 89-192, 90-193, 91-194, 92-195, 93-196, 94-197, 95-198, 96-199, 97-200, 98-201, 99-202, 100-203, 101-204, 102-205, 103-206, 104-207, 105-208, 106-209, 107-210, 108-211, 109-212, 110-213, 111-214, 112-215, 113-216, 114-217, 115-218, 116-219, 117-220, 118-221, 119-222, 120-223, 121-224, 122-225, 123-226, 124-227, 125-228, 126-229, 127-230, 128-231, 129-232, 130-233, 131-234, 132-235, 133-236, 134-237, 135-238, 136-239, 137-240, 138-241, 139-242, 140-243, 141-244, 142-245, 143-246, 144-247, 145-248, 146-249, 147-250, 148-251, 149-252, 150-253, 151-254, 152-255, 153-256, 154-257, 155-258, 156-259, 157-260, 158-261, 159-262, 160-263, 161-264, 162-265, 163-266, 164-267, 165-268, 166-269, 167-270, 168-271, 169-272, 170-273, 171-274, 172-275, 173-276, 174-277, 175-278, 176-279, 177-280, 178-281, 179-282, 180-283, 181-284, 182-285, 183-286, 184-287, 185-288, 186-289, 187-290, 188-291, 189-292, 190-293, 191-294, 192-295, 193-296, 194-297, 195-298, 196-299, 197-300, 198-301, 199-302, 200-303, 201-304, 202-305, 203-306, 204-307, 205-308, 206-309, 207-310, 208-311, 209-312, 210-313, 211-314, 212-315, 213-316, 214-317, 215-318, 216-319, 217-320, 218-321, 219-322, 220-323, 221-324, 222-325, 223-326, 224-327, 225-328, 226-329, 227-330, 228-331, 229-332, 230-333, 231-334, 232-335, 233-336, 234-337, 235-338, 236-339, 237-340, 238-341, 239-342, 240-343, 241-344, 242-345, 243-346, 244-347, 245-348, 246-349, 247-350, 248-351, 249-352, 250-353, 251-354, 252-355, 253-356, 254-357, 255-358, 256-359, 257-360, 258-361, 259-362, 260-363, 261-364, 262-365, 263-366, 264-367, 265-368, 266-369, 267-370, 268-371, 269-372, 270-373, 271-374, 272-375, 273-376, 274-377, 275-378, 276-379, 277-380, 278-381, 279-382, 280-383, 281-384, 282-385, 283-386, 284-387, 285-388, 286-389, 287-390, 288-391, 289-392, 290-393, 291-394, 292-395, 293-396, 294-397, 295-398, 296-399, 297-400, 298-401, 299-402, 300-403, 301-404, 302-405, 303-406, 304-407, 305-408, 306-409, 307-410, 308-411, 309-412, 310-413, 311-414, 312-415, 313-416, 314-417, 315-418, 316-419, 317-420, 318-421, 319-422, 320-423, 321-424, 322-425, 323-426, 324-427, 325-428, 326-429, 327-430, 328-431, 329-432, 330-433, 331-434, 332-435, 333-436, 334-437, 335-438, 336-439, 337-440, 338-441, 339-442, 340-443, 341-444, 342-445, 343-446, 344-447, 345-448, 346-449, 347-450, 348-451, 349-452, 350-453, 351-454, 352-455, 353-456, 354-457, 355-458, 356-459, 357-460, 358-461, 359-462, 360-463, 361-464, 362-465, 363-466, 364-467, 365-468, 366-469, 367-470, 368-471, 369-472, 370-473, 371-474, 372-475, 373-476, 374-477, 375-478, 376-479, 377-480, 378-481, 379-482, 380-483, 381-484, 382-485, 383-486, 384-487, 385-488, 386-489, 387-490, 388-491, 389-492, 390-493, 391-494, 392-495, 393-496, 394-497, 395-498, 396-499, 397-500, 398-501, 399-502, 400-503, 401-504, 402-505, 403-506, 404-507, 405-508, 406-509, 407-510, 408-511, 409-512, 410-513, 411-514, 412-515, 413-516, 414-517, 415-518, 416-519, 417-520, 418-521, 419-522, 420-523, 421-524, 422-525, 423-526, 424-527, 425-528, 426-529, 427-530, 428-531, 429-532, 430-533, 431-534, 432-535, 433-536, 434-537, 435-538, 436-539, 437-540, 438-541, 439-542, 440-543, 441-544, 442-545, 443-546, 444-547, 445-548, 446-549, 447-550, 448-551, 449-552, 450-553, 451-554, 452-555, 453-556, 454-557, 455-558, 456-559, 457-560, 458-561, 459-562, 460-563, 461-564, 462-565, 463-566, 464-567, 465-568, 466-569, 467-570, 468-571, 469-572, 470-573, 471-574, 472-575, 473-576, 474-577, 475-578, 476-579, 477-580, 478-581, 479-582, 480-583, 481-584, 482-585, 483-586, 484-587, 485-588, 486-589, 487-590, 488-591, 489-592, 490-593, 491-594, 492-595, 493-596, 494-597, 495-598, 496-599, 497-600, 498-601, 499-602, 500-603, 501-604, 502-605, 503-606, 504-607, 505-608, 506-609, 507-610, 508-611, 509-612, 510-613, 511-614, 512-615, 513-616, 514-617, 515-618, 516-619, 517-620, 518-621, 519-622, 520-623, 521-624, 522-625, 523-626, 524-627, 525-628, 526-629, 527-630, 528-631, 529-632, 530-633, 531-634, 532-635, 533-636, 534-637, 535-638, 536-639, 537-640, 538-641, 539-642, 540-643, 541-644, 542-645, 543-646, 544-647, 545-648, 546-649, 547-650, 548-651, 549-652, 550-653, 551-654, 552-655, 553-65

Wilkinson a winner still seeking to make his point



Wilkinson burden

LISTENING to a Leeds United supporter haranguing Norman Hunter in the Elland Road foyer about a 20-year-old scarf he had mislaid on his return from Wembley last Saturday — “hadn’t washed it since we won there in ’72,” he said proudly — made one wonder whether Howard Wilkinson might not still have more exorcising to do before the ghost of Kevin is properly laid to rest.

Winning the championship last season, albeit in his fourth term in charge, failed to satisfy the neutrals as Wilkinson was only too aware, asking a trifle testily after the final game: “Can we enjoy it for two days before the acid starts flowing again?”

Given the time-honoured British tradition for shooting

down its winners, Wilkinson and his team, who it was said lacked panache, would probably have received more plaudits had they finished runners-up instead. Britain loves its runners-up. Besides, winning meant that Wilkinson was way ahead of schedule: the championship was supposed to be this season’s objective, at the earliest.

Leeds supporters will expect a repeat performance at the very least, or, if not, the European Cup as a consolation prize. Wilkinson, who was the manager of the year, has made a rod for his back.

“The public can be patient or sympathetic when it comes to some performers,” say like Sinatra when he lost his voice. “But football managers are expected to go on achieving.”

Premier League has brought little change

Armchair viewers gain most from bungled revolution

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A WHOLE new ball game? The label, attached to the inaugural Premier League by BSkyB, will be genuinely appropriate only if managers and players inject a sense of adventure into the season which kicks off today at nine venues.

Ever since the idea was put forward 18 months ago, the principles behind the Premier League have been either discarded or diluted to such an extent that only armchair viewers in some 700,000 households will notice any significant difference. The proposed revolution has been confined merely to television coverage.

The Football Association, after being challenged by the League, threatened by the Professional Footballers Association and forced to compromise by self-interested chairmen, has lost control of the supposed historic era. The administrators, in squabbling among themselves, have inadvertently forsaken a momentous opportunity to redefine the ancient structure.

Contrary to the fundamental theme of Graham Kelly’s blueprint, the schedule of the nation’s best players will remain the most demanding in the world for the next three years. The quantity of the fixtures continues to be given priority over the quality of the games.

Apart from the provision of two additional free weekends before internationals, nothing essentially has changed. The excitement must therefore be generated by the 22 clubs themselves and, considering the lavish rewards they will receive from television con-

cernies and sponsors, they should be conscious of the duty to provide fresh entertainment.

Last Saturday’s Charity Shield between Leeds United and Liverpool set an admirable example. Contrasting vividly with England’s miserably negative contribution to the European championship the occasion represented a showpiece. But will they be open and uninhibited when three points are at stake?

The pressure promises to be particularly intense among the leading clubs because the race for the first Premier League title appears to be more open than for many a year. For once there is no dominant force overshadowing the field.

The anxiety will be no less profound for those at the other end of the table. Since relegation would represent a huge drop in status, the fear of failure will be felt especially keenly at Coventry City, Norwich City, Oldham, Athletic and Middlesbrough.

On the eve of the season, every manager dreams of winning the championship. Howard Wilkinson said last week: As he is in charge of Leeds, the holders, his vision will be as realistic as any but no club other than Liverpool has retained the trophy since Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1959.

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Threat to spirit of co-operation on Premier League's first day

QPR pull plug on BSkyB

By Clive White

ENGLISH football's brave new world looked like getting off to a bumpy start yesterday when Queen's Park Rangers announced that they would refuse to co-operate with BSkyB at the start of their multi-million-pound exclusive coverage of the Premier League.

Rangers, annoyed at having to play three games in six days, appear before the cameras on Monday in the satellite station's live match against Manchester City at Maine Road, but have said that they will not grant any interviews nor allow cameras into their dressing-room if asked.

The club tried, without success, to get the fixtures altered by the Premier League and at one stage this week Gerry Francis, the Rangers manager, was planning to pull his players out of Monday's game in protest.

"It's lunacy," Francis said. "The 'Big Five' wouldn't have stood for it in the first week of the season."

As it was, a member of the "Big Five" could only sympathise. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said: "I think Gerry has got a very good case — but he's just wasting his energy. They will have to play."

Whatever considerations BSkyB may have had for Rangers, they were unimpressed with their lack of co-operation at the outset of what is supposed to be an era of better understanding between football and television. Rangers were accused of shooting themselves in the foot while still being prepared to take the television money, the first £500,000 payment of which clubs receive today in what amounts to a £304 million deal over five years.

David Hill, BSkyB's head of sport, said: "I can't believe a group of professional adults could act this way. I find it



New recruit: Paul Rideout, left, is welcomed to Everton yesterday by Howard Kendall, the club manager.

remarkable. They are shooting the messenger — not talking to us is incredibly counter-productive.

"If that is the way they want it, we will just talk to Manchester City. We are not going back to them. They have said nothing about not taking the television money. They are taking the money but not talking to us. When they go down the tunnel, it's bye-bye QPR. If they want to split with the television money, the first £500,000 payment of which clubs receive today in what amounts to a £304 million deal over five years.

Richard Thompson, the 28-year-old chairman of Rangers, issued a statement yesterday in which he said that he held a

meeting with Francis and the players to discuss the situation and "lack of assistance" from BSkyB and the Premier League in dealing with their objections.

"Following a meeting between myself, my manager and players, it has been decided no-one from Queen's Park Rangers will be prepared to co-operate or communicate with BSkyB before or after this match."

Rangers said that their players would not get back from Manchester until around 3am on Tuesday, before having to go into training later for the following evening's game against Southampton.

Next month Leeds United

have to move their fixture

against Aston Villa at Elland Road from Saturday to Sunday, three days before facing Spartak in the first round of the European Cup.

According to a poll conducted by Gallup on behalf of Carlsberg, the brewers who sponsor Liverpool, 50 per cent of supporters said that they would be less likely to attend a match if it was moved from Saturday afternoon to Monday evening.

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, the Football League champions, has already protested that the scheduling was unworkable and detrimental to the chances of English success in European club competitions.

Two-page fixtures and Premier League guide, pages 26-27

Team news, page 29
Wilkinson's view, page 29

Southampton punished

By Louise Taylor

SOUTHAMPTON yesterday received a rap on the knuckles from the Football Association, which fined them £20,000 for their poor disciplinary record last season.

The sanction is not as severe as it sounds because £15,000 of that fine is suspended and will be required only if Southampton's behaviour does not improve appreciably this season. Ian Branfoot's team has thus had to pay only

£5,000 for a season that brought it 80 bookings and five sendings-off. Twenty different players were booked, 11 of whom, an entire team, served suspensions.

Branfoot said: "This is potentially a severe punishment and I would like to think we will learn from it. But all I can do is inflict damage on the players who have transgressed in the same way that the FA have come down on us."

Lincoln City were fined £1,250 with £750 suspended, while Darlington and Exeter City were given suspended fines of £4,000 and £6,000 respectively for their poor disciplinary records.

Kenny Dalglish and Kevin Keegan, the managers of Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United respectively, were charged with bringing the game into disrepute yesterday. Keegan was also fined £1,000. The offences relate to alleged comments made to referees in April last season.

Terry McDermott,

Keegan's assistant, was also fined £250 for comments made to Brian Coddington at Derby. An FA spokesman said: "We won't hesitate to act if there is any repeat of incidents like this."

Crofton were also upset by the figure for which the player was supposed to be sold. "It's outrageous," Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, said.

"The story said Chelsea would be signing Kevin for £2.1 million and that is totally untrue. I have told my chairman I consider £2.5 million to be a fair and reasonable offer

and one worth considering. But that does not mean Kevin would be leaving — the last word is his."

The deal with Chelsea which would have taken the London club's close-season purchases to £5.5 million may not, however, be dead. Robbins said: "If they want to talk to us they should do it through the proper channels." Not that Gallagher could have played for Chelsea or Coventry, for that matter, today because he has an Achilles tendon injury.

Other sales, however, have

progressed smoothly. Mark Robins completed an £800,000 transfer to Norwich City. Paul Rideout joined Everton from Rangers for £500,000; and Wayne Burnett went from Leyton Orient to Blackburn Rovers in a deal which could eventually be worth £350,000 — small change by the standards of the Lancastrian club, who almost inevitably are believed to have joined the chase for Terry Phelan just when the Wimbleton left back seemed destined to move to Manchester City.

The asking price for City of £2 million has risen to £2.2 million for Rovers.

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1992



Preserves on parade: as rural preoccupations change, so does the Women's Institute. But if environmental action now replaces jam and Jerusalem on the agenda, home-made produce remains an enduring feature of country shows

The village show must go on

Animals are being groomed, cakes iced and tractors polished for the big day. It's show-time across the country and, John Young reports, despite changes in rural life, this simple pleasure remains ever popular

On a blazing Saturday afternoon, the flags on top of the tents flutter brightly against the bluest of skies. Families in shirt-sleeves and summer dresses mill around the show ring and among the stalls selling everything from handicrafts to hot-dogs. Small children tug at their parents' hands, demanding to see the donkeys and the ponies.

Everywhere there are trees, and beyond them the green sweep of the Downs. This may be commuter belt Surrey, the countryside may not be what it was, or so we are told; and more space nowadays has to be allowed for visitors' cars. But otherwise it could be a scene from any time in the past 45 years.

Inside the marquee run by the Women's Institute the action begins early. The WI is one of the enduring features of country life, but even it changes with the times. This year, for example, the theme is "Into Europe", which means that the entrants have to submit dishes characteristic of another European Community country.

"It makes it all the more fun, but it also makes the judging that much more difficult," Daphne Nunneley, the vice-chairman of the Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes, says. To avoid accusations of bias, heaven forbid — the judges are provided by a different county federation, in this case neighbouring Sussex.

Cranleigh claims to be the largest village in the south of England, and fittingly stages what must be one of the biggest village shows in the country. Purists might object that it has become almost too big to qualify, and that it is more of a mini-agricultural show. But unlike the regional and county shows that employ their own staff, the Cranleigh event depends entirely on volunteers.

The single exception is Denise Cook, the secretary, who works all year to ensure the success of this one day. "The show seems to get bigger and bigger all the time, and it is becoming more and more difficult to manage because of the problems of getting enough volunteers," she says. "I spend a lot of my time making sure that everyone who has helped in the past is willing to go on doing so; the stewards and judges, for example. You've got to be very careful with judges," she adds, slightly mysteriously.

Jack Nash, a retired farmer, has been involved with the show since it began in 1947. "It started when a few local farmers got together and said we should have our own show. The first was really no more than a ploughing match in the grounds of Knowle Park, on the edge of the

"Cranleigh has been taken over by yuppies," he complains. "People move out of London and the first thing they do is acquire a couple of horses. They haven't got any background in the country and, provided they can buy hay from a local farm, they have no other interest in agriculture or the countryside."

They dress in the way they imagine country people do. They buy four-wheel-drive vehicles, but all they do is career round the hills at weekends."

Mrs Cook agrees that the gap in understanding between those who earn their living from the countryside and those who simply live there is becoming wider. "My grandparents on both sides were farmers," she says, "but my own children just don't want to know."

written instructions that all food must be in the tent by 7.30am, ready for judging to begin at 7.45.

"It's a friendly competition, but that doesn't mean it's not highly competitive," Mrs Nunneley says.

"Our members are very keen to win, and they take the results very seriously."

By the time the judging ends at 10am there are already long queues outside the marquee, waiting for admittance. A couple of hours later the tables piled high with home-grown flowers, fruit and vegetables have been all but demolished by eager purchasers. Only a few onions and carrots remain, together with a handful of boxes of free-range eggs and jars of honey.

Elsewhere in the marquee the floral displays and a table laden

"Also people don't grow their own fruit and vegetables the way they used to. It's become so easy to buy everything from the supermarket and farm shops, or to pick your own."

Mr Nunneley, who has served on the federation for the past 16 years, says that standards have improved enormously, both in the quality of produce and the way it is displayed. They have been given a further boost by the government's new EC-inspired food hygiene regulations. Inspectors now make regular visits to village shows, and many institute members have taken exams to obtain certificates of competence in food health.

At the other end of the showground the farm and food tent appears to have dropped horticulture in favour of "value-added" produce as the cause of agricultural "diversification". There are plates of delicious oysters at £2.50 a half dozen — who in 1950 would have expected to be able to buy oysters at a village show? — along with tables displaying other shellfish, English wines, cider, farmhouse cheeses and, perhaps more in keeping with tradition, home-made fudge.

Outside the sun beats down on the stalls, the beer tent, the fish and chips and the hamburgers. The Cossack riders in the ring, proud and magical horsemen who have made the long journey from the Urals but from distant Staffordshire, are greeted with warm applause, and are followed by the rumble of elderly tractor engines as a procession of vintage Fords and Fergusons joins the parade.

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A pair of dray horses pull a wagon-load of laughing visitors close to where a fashion display is in progress. "An absolutely fabulous sequined outfit," the compere intones, competing with an announcement that the donkey show is about to begin. Small children leap and slither in and out of the inevitable bouncy castle. Not far away a stand is devoted to the esoteric task of making Sussex trugs, next door is the Small Shepherds' Club, not somewhere for children to adopt lambs but an advice centre for people contemplating the good life. "Thinking about keeping a few sheep?" its poster enquires. Nothing about French farmers and lamb wars.

It may not be Barcelona or Michael Jackson, but the public

year-old daughter, observes that she is more interested in horses.

Are the Roberts family, who live in Cranleigh, typical local people? "I think we are," Mr Roberts says. "We have always been very interested and very keen on the show. To say that the villagers are losing interest in events like this is nonsense."

In her office, in a corner of the members' marquee, Mrs Cook seems delighted by the size of the crowds. In recent years attendances have fallen from a peak of nearly 14,000 to about 10,000, but this year she thinks they may have surpassed the record. Perhaps recession, and the lack of money for expensive holidays, have rekindled awareness of the simple pleasures of strolling or sitting in the sun, enjoying very English activities in an idyllic English setting. If Cranleigh is anything to go by, the village show is emphatically alive and well.



Rise and be judged: competition in the cakes marquee is friendly, but results are taken "very seriously"

fruit displays, the sheep and the cattle, and feel that they were closely involved as part of the community.

"Now we get more and more visitors coming from the towns, from Guildford, Dorking and Horsham, and they're not really interested in that sort of thing. They pay quite a lot of money to get in and wander around looking totally bored."

"It's not all gloom and doom. We still have a lot of supporters, and some farms now 'adopt' village schools. You could say that education is one of the functions of village shows, to create some sort of relationship between town and country. We have to try to educate people, and to some extent I think we are succeeding."

For Cranleigh WI members this is the big day of the year, and in many cases the planning and research began months ago. Competitors are issued with strict type-

"Thirty years ago there were 50 or 60 dairy farms in the district," Mr Bridger adds. "Now there are probably not that many in the whole county. I sometimes wonder why so many people come to shows like this. They pay quite a lot of money to get in and wander around looking totally bored."

"It's not all gloom and doom. We still have a lot of supporters, and some farms now 'adopt' village schools. You could say that education is one of the functions of village shows, to create some sort of relationship between town and country. We have to try to educate people, and to some extent I think we are succeeding."

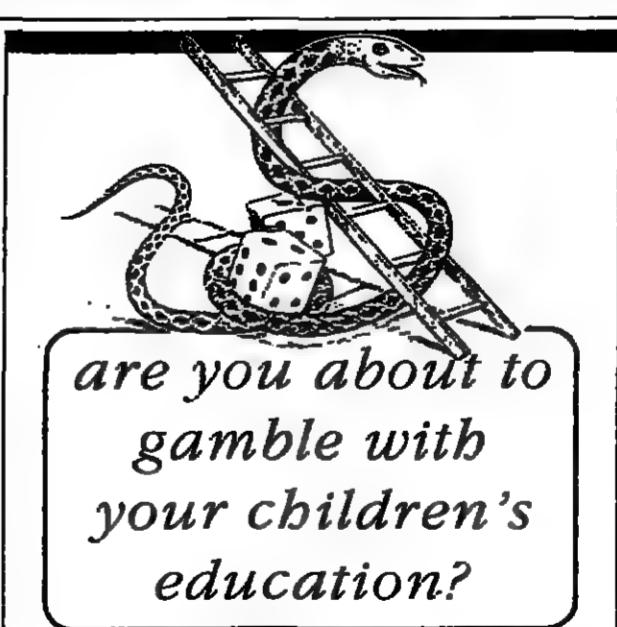
For Cranleigh WI members this is the big day of the year, and in many cases the planning and research began months ago. Competitors are issued with strict type-

with cakes and jams remain on display, alongside stalls selling books and clothes. But the earlier flood of visitors has slowed to a trickle. Margaret Baverstock, the local WI treasurer, estimates that the day's takings are between £800 and £900. Is that good? "Not bad. Yes, quite good. I'd say."

Mrs Nunneley, chairman of the WI Cranleigh show committee, insists that villagers are highly involved in the proceedings, and that they are very much a part of local life. But she admits that the new generation of commuters shows less interest in community activities than its predecessors.

"The WI has always had a big marquee here," she says. "But horticulture and flower displays have gradually moved away over the years, and nowadays growers have their own specialist shows."

It may not be Barcelona or Michael Jackson, but the public



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GARDENING, PAGE 4

PASSPORT TO FRANCE, PAGES 6, 8

FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 6

An old rose by any other name would smell much sweeter than most of the modern ones, says Francesca Greenoak

Win a weekend for two in Gaston's Armagnac country, and explore the best of Alsace with this week's regional guide

Who can't wait to get out of frocks and into the kitchen to cook a simple fish dish? Bruce Oldfield entertains at home

FILM

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but ho-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's energetic Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034) *Empire* (071-397 9999); *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *MGM Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310) *MGM Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332)

BELLE DU JOUR (18). Burkh's 1967 classic about the adventurous libido of a bourgeois wife (Catherine Deneuve). Cool and compelling in a sparkling new print. Jean Sorel, Michel Audiard. *Barbican* (071-638 8891) *MGM Swiss Centre* (071-439 4470) *MGM Tottenham Court Road* (071-636 6148)

THE BU BUTcher'S WIFE (12): Arch whistly about a New York butcher's clairvoyant wife (Demi Moore), partly salvaged by bright lines and a genial cast. Jeff Daniels, Mary Steenburgen. Director, Terry Hughes. *MGM Tottenham Court Road* (071-636 6148) *MGM Trocadero* (071-434 0031).

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE (15). So well-heeled friends in search of an uninterrupted meal. Burkh's marvellously amusing 1972 satire, rewatched with six other films by the master of screen surrealism Fernando Rey, Stefania Sandrelli. *Barbican* (071-638 8891).

FAR AND AWAY (12): Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman flee from Ireland to America. Lumbering immigrant epic with pretty pictures but no punch. Director, Ron Howard. *Barbican* (071-638 8891) *Empire* (071-437 9999) *MGM Baker Street* (071-352 9772) *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

FERGULLY: THE LAST RAINFOREST (U). Bland, unimaginative cartoon feature with an impeccably green message. Director, Bill Kroger; voice artists include Robin Williams. *MGM Chelsea* (071-352 5096) *MGM Tottenham Court Road* (071-636 6148) *Odeons*: *Kensington* (0426 914666) *Mezzanine* (0426 915683) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

FREDDIE AS F.R.O.T.U. French frou-frou becomes secret agent and saves Brian's national interests. Clumsy, vapid, homogenous cartoon. Director, Jon Avnet. *MGM Tottenham Court Road* (071-636 6148) *MGM Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *Odeons*: *Kensington* (0426 914666) *Mezzanine* (0426 915683) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absurbing version of E. M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helen Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. *Curzon*: *Mayfair* (071-465 8865) *Empire* (071-439 44805).

LETHAL WEAPON 3 (15): Rousing comedy and mayhem with L.A. cops Riggs and Murtaugh. Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, director, Richard Donner. *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034) *MGM Chelsea* (071-352 5096) *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *MGM Haymarket* (071-839 1527) *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310) *MGM Shaftesbury Avenue* (071-836 6279 7025) *MGM Trocadero* (071-34 0031) *Screen on the Hill* (071-435 3366) *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

THE PLAYER (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. With Robin Wright. *Odeons*: *Kensington* (0426 914666) *Mezzanine* (0426 915683) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

WAITING (15): Surrogate mother (Nora Zehetner) awards the birth surrounded by friends. Agreeable Australian feminist comedy. Writer-director, Jackie McKimmie. *Electric* (071-792 2020) *National Film Theatre* (071-928 3232).

WITHOUT YOU I'M NOTHING (18): Comeledene Sarah Bernhardt tours her life and American pop culture. Striking "performance" film from her one-woman show. Director, John Boskovich. *ICA* (071-930 3647)

THE LONG DAY CLOSES (12): Terence Davies's powerful evocation of childhood's paradise. With Leigh McCormick, Marjorie Yates, and a wonderful aural collage of Fibes Britain. *Curzon* *Phoenix* (071-240 9661). *MASALA* (18): Dishevelled satirical fantasy set in Toronto's Indian community. With Saeed Jaffrey (delightful in three roles); writer-director, Shyam Krishna. *Metro* (071-371 437 9999).

THE NEW BOYS (PG): Overlong, sanctious musical inspired by the 1899 strike of New York's newspaper boys. Christian Bale, Robert Duvall; choreographer-director, Kenny Ortega. *Odeons*: *Kensington* (0426 914666) *West End* (0426 915574) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

NIGHT ON EARTH (15): Five tragicomic encounters in five night-time scenes. Uneven but amiable. Jim Jarmusch compendium. Roberto Benigni, Gene Rowlands. *Beatrix* *Dale* *Camden Plaza* (071-485 2443) *Gate* (071-727 4043) *Lumière* (071-335 0691) *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636).

NOISES OFF (15): Coarsened adaptation of Michael Frayn's farce about a theatrical troupe.

Sometimes succeeds in spite of itself. Michael Caine, Carol Burnett; director, Peter Bogdanovich. *Chelsea* (071-351 3742/3743) *Odeons*: *Haymarket* (0426 915353) *Kensington* (0426 914666).

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME: Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carpentry alter ego. A revival to be cherished. *Wyndham's*, *Charing Cross Road* (071-867 1116) *Mon-Fri*, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 7pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

THE PROVOK'D WIFE: Vanburgh's dissection of the dead marriage of Sir John and Lady Brute; presented by the 1697 Group. *New End Theatre*, 27 New End, NW3 (071-794 0022). Previews Tues, Wed, 8pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then Tues-Sun, 8pm, mat Sun, 4pm.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing as the rich New Yorker transfigured by a black con artist in John Guare's fine play on human inter-dependence. *Comedy*, *Panton Street*, SW1 (071-867 1045) *Mon-Sat*, 8pm, mats, 4pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, Hugh Quarshie and Stephen Rea as Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play. *Hampstead*, *Swiss Cottage Centre*, NW3 (071-722 9301) *Mon-Sat*, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Final performances.

THE VOYSEY INHERITANCE: As part of a celebration of Harley Granville Barker (1877-1946), William Gaskill directs the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company in this gripping drama of financial skulduggery in the English middle classes. A rehearsed reading of Barker's one-act play *Rocco* will take place Wed, 8pm and of his one-act play *Farewell To The Theatre*, Thurs, 5pm.

Royal Lyceum, *Grindley Street* (031-225 2428) *Mon-Sat*, 7pm, mat Tues, 7pm, mat Sun, 2pm.

SCHIPPEL: A celebration of C.P. Taylor (1929-1981) features his

delightful version of Steinheim's comedy on snobbery and singing in a dazzling production by Greenwich Theatre. *Church Hill Theatre*, *Morningside Road* (031-225 5756) *Mon-Sat*, 7.30pm, mats, Fri, Sat, 2.30pm.

WALTER: Taylor's moving drama on the life and soul of Walter Jackson, the Scottish Jewish music hall star. *St Brigid's Centre*, *Orwell Terrace* (031-225 5756). *Tues-Sat*, 7.30pm, mats, Wed, Sat, 4.30pm.

FUENTE OVEJUNA: Declan Donnellan's National Theatre staging of Lope de Vega's drama of civic solidarity, *Assembly Hall*, *The Mound* (031-225 5756). *Opens Tues*, 7.30pm, then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 4.30pm.

EDINBURGH — MOSES AND AARON: The festival gets off to a powerful start with a concert performance, in English, of Schoenberg's unfinished opera. Richard Armstrong conducts a strong cast, with Willard White and William Cochran in the title roles. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the 200-strong Edinburgh Festival Chorus, the Royal Scottish Children's Chorus and Capella Nova make up the vast instrumental and vocal forces.

EDINBURGH — THE FRAMES: Glen Hansard, Outspan Foster in *The Commitments*, heads this new band of one-time Dublin buskers now chasing fame with high energy, buzz-saw pop. *International 2*, *Manchester* (061-273 8834) *today*, 7.30pm *Riverside*, *Newcastle* (091-261 4386), *tommorow*, 7.30pm. *The Venue*, *Edinburgh* (031-226 7010), *Mon*, 10pm. *Mean Fiddler*, *London SE1* (081-961 5490), *Thurs*, 8.30pm.

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Stay tuned as we join our harvest hero creating a scene

I HAVE been following the saga of the beleaguered BBC and its attempts to salvage *Eldorado*; and I have to say that I have every sympathy. I am in the middle of launching my own annual soap opera, a tragicomic saga of one man's attempts to come to terms with a devious item of aged farm machinery. And I'm not getting any applause either. Yet it is harvest time: the dreaded binder has been dragged from the dark recesses of the barn. Episode one:

With his soul overflowing with optimism, our ever-aging hero decides that he will approach the binder this year in a state of total relaxation. He will not repeat last year's errors of shouting at it and kicking it. Rather, he will calmly tend it and caress it. His placidity, he hopes, will be repaid.

Regular readers of this column will by now have amassed sufficient knowledge of antique farm

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

machinery to qualify for a doctorate in the subject, but in case any of you are unfamiliar with a binder I can best describe it as a device which cuts the standing corn, wraps it into bundles, throws a length of string around them, knots it and throws the parcel on to the ground. These bundles are called sheaves and make grown men go misty-eyed with nostalgia at harvest festivals. But the mechanical process which produces them can descend into chaos. Uneasily the viewer becomes aware of this lurking menace.

Having established the main characters, i.e. myself and the binder, we introduce the juvenile lead, a young lad who drives the tractor. I know we usually do things

with horses round here but the binder is a heavy bit of gear and we do not have sufficient horses to haul it. In the opening scenes (not to be shown before 9pm), he stands by as I caress the machine with oil, pack her nipples with grease, tighten her belts on her canvases and generally show all the signs of a man if not exactly in love, at least expecting some fulfilment. Anticipating his oats, you might say.

Then cut to a more sombre scene with threatening music as I look with horror at the corn. Instead of standing high and proud like oats should, mine has been dashed to the ground by high winds and torrential rain. Instead of a forest, I have a carpet. It is the nightmare scenario, for although the knife will



cut the stalks, the corn is unable to fall into the jaws of the machine. Cue commercial break.

Part two starts with our hero losing his nerve, thinking he will ring a man with a nice, shiny

combine-harvester and retire to a hammock in the garden while modern machinery works its magic. But his principles surface, and with grim determination he decides to go on. He steers the

binder at the corn and gives the signal for the young driver to give it all he's got. In triumph they progress all of three feet before there is a mighty jam-up, the poor machine bursting at the seams with tangled stalks. But they press on. When wornen parts of the machine shatter, they stop and, with increasingly violent blows, carve new ones from nearby pieces of wreckage. The conveying canvases stretch under the load and are savagely tightened. Nothing will stop these men. It is epic. It reminds one of a Norse saga.

Then the final tragic scene. In an absent-minded moment they drive the whole paraphernalia into a tree. An overhanging branch shatters a vital cog into two useless halves and effectively writes out the binder in episode one. The harvest is doomed.

Are you on the edge of your seat yet? If not, you soon will be, for I

have my ever-useful neighbour, Farmer White, to drive his advice. Here the plot thickens: for he knows an engineer of the old school, ideal to carry out such a repair. But he is a retired man and will only work for a chosen few. Will he come or won't he? Will the corn go to waste as the broken binder sits, forlorn, in the corner of the field? Cue titles, over a close-up of throbbing veins in my temple.

There you are. Surely a whole

nation would be gripped by such a

saga. I suggest the poor devils who have been detailed off to save

Eldorado should come here for a

couple of weeks to find out what

real drama is all about. I can

promise you that at this stage in the

farmers year it would be only too

happy to swap places with them.

Sitting in a folding chair with a

chilled beer, shouting, "Sooper

darling, just one more time, luvv,"

has got real appeal.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Gardens to visit

□ Harrogate: Harlow Carr Botanic Gardens. Large and interesting display garden of the Northern Horticultural Society, with emphasis on cool-climate plants and vegetables. National Collection of hypericums and some ferns. Crag Lane, Harrogate. North Yorkshire (1.5m from Harrogate city centre on B6162 Otley Road). Plant sales £3, child (under 16) free. Open daily 9am-3.30pm or dusk if earlier (01423 565418).

□ Gloucestershire: Sudeley Castle. Garden with pond, greenhouse and lovely views and a wide variety of unusual plants, including National Collection of phloxes. Grange Court, 3m W of Gloucester, 2m NE of Westbury-on-Severn — turn off A48 at Hunt Hill near Charlton. Plant sales £1, child 50p. Tomorrow, 2-5pm (0452 760268).

□ Drumsook, by Banchory, Scotland: Drum Castle, walled garden of historic roses representing 17th-20th centuries. Drum Castle, 10m W of Aberdeen and 8m E of Banchory on the A93. £1, child and QAPs, 50p. Admission to house, £3. Tomorrow, 2-5pm.

Roses are heaven-scent

Francesca Greenoak compares old and new, and finds that fragrance improves with age

Manya Anna Pavlova rose flowered for the first time earlier this month. It has taken two years because the plant is not strong, but the blushing pink, full-petaled, slightly frilled bloom was so astonishingly beautiful and fragrant that it was worth the wait.

I do not much like the typical, one-key-scent of hybrid tea roses but Anna Pavlova, which comes (or unknown parentage) from Peter Beales's famous rose nursery, has a whole orchestra of scent. English is deficient in language to describe such complexities of scent, but a friend of Mr Beales got close with a picnic of fresh fruit salad with Turkish delight served under a flowering May tree.

Scent for me is one of the most important attributes of the rose, a feeling shared by

GARDENING

many gardeners who are dismayed at the absence of fragrance in so many brightly coloured modern roses. It was heartening to see crowds at the rose tent at last month's Hampton Court Palace show, evaluating a selection of individual rose varieties supplied by Harkness to show that some modern roses do smell good.

Gossiping and eavesdropping, I was struck by the concurrence of opinion. Most of the people I spoke to placed the coral-coloured hybrid tea Fragrant Cloud at the head of their preferences, and it was the outright favourite over the five days. It was also my choice, but I have to say I was not strongly impressed by the line-up, preferring myself the muskiness and complicated

Modern roses are bred to flower more or less continuously throughout the summer season and hold a monopoly of the brighter colours, while old roses in general are a shorter season and are usually to be found in pinks, purples and whites, with the yellow confined to species roses.

undertones of the best of the old roses.

Perhaps under the stress of thousands of people deeply inhaling their scent, the strength of fragrance diminished over the day. It is true that cut roses do not continue smelling as powerfully, or as long, as those left on the bush. I have noticed that even a richly scented rose, such as the rugosa Blanche Double de Courbet, starts smelling rather oddy and peppery towards evening in a stuffy marquee.

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Nose for a good rose: but many gardeners are dismayed by the lack of fragrance in brightly coloured modern roses

In most gardens there is room for several different kinds. I love the Ayrshire rose (*Rosa arvensis*) for the simplicity of its white, single flowers and evanescent, honeyed scent. I grow it, and the pink-flowered species sweetbriar, with its sexy, musky-scented

foliage, in my hedges. I could not manage without the fragrance. Madame Alfred Carré climbing my back wall, although the flower is floppy and does not last in water. The Bourbon rose Souvenir de la Malmaison is a continuous flowering old rose

of great beauty and stupendous fragrance, though the flowers are spoilt by wet weather.

The pink climbing Bourbon Kathleen Harrop is also very fragrant (and thornless), and continuous-flowering. From other roses bred this

BEST BUYS

COLCHICUM and autumn crocus bulbs will be coming on sale this month and both should be planted at the earliest opportunity. The most common autumn crocus, *Crocus speciosus*, with long-petaled flowers which come before the narrow leaves, comes in shades of pink, lilac, purple and white. Colchicums have larger flowers: most readily available are the varieties of *Colchicum autumnale*, including white, pink and water-lily forms.

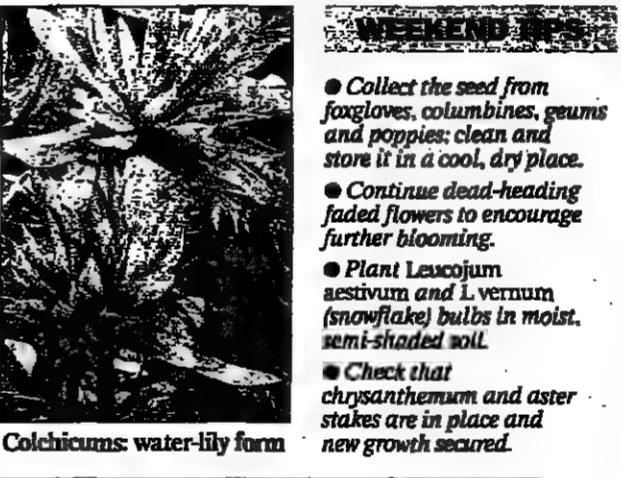
WEEKEND HIPS

● Collect the seed from foxgloves, columbines, geraniums and poppies; clean and store it in a cool, dry place.

● Continue dead-heading faded flowers to encourage further blooming.

● Plant Leucanthemum aestivum and *L. vernum* (snowflake) bulbs in moist, semi-shaded soil.

● Check that chrysanthemum and aster stakes are in place and new growth secured.



Events

□ Austin Morris 1100 rally: Thirtieth anniversary car club rally plus archery, and spinning and weaving. Hatton House, Hatton, Warwickshire (0926 843411). Tomorrow, 10am. £20, child £12.

□ Hawkshead agricultural show: Full livestock competition, carriage driving, hound trials, craft and trade stands. Hawkshead Hall Farm, Hawkshead, Cumbria (0966 66050). Tue, 9.30am. £2.

□ Guided Walk to Goose Foot Tarn: Leisurely walk bringing boots. Hawkshead Information Centre, main car park (05394 36525). Tomorrow, 10.30am. Free.

□ Huddersfield flowers: 51st annual flower, hand-craft and vegetable show. Flower competition, plus a circus and live music. Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, Today, 10am-7pm. £2.

□ Suffolk, inland rally: Vixen vehicle and aircraft display, stalls, side-show. Ipswich Airport, Nacton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 264554). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £5 per car; pedestrians £2.

□ English national sheepdog trials: Premiere sheepdog event with competitors from all over the country. The Showground, Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria (0468 71603). Today, 8am. £2.

□ Beginners' fly fishing: An introduction to the fine art of fly fishing with practical demonstrations. Whitewell Fishing Lodge, Rutland Water, Oakham, nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (0780 86770). Today, 9.30am. £15.50.

□ Peebles UK show: Display of native ponies plus full country fair with craft and trade stands. East of England Showground, Abbot's Leigh, Peterborough, Cambs (0733 234511). Today and tomorrow, 8am. £5. concs £2.

□ Shrewsbury flower show: Featuring floral displays, show jumping, fireworks display and music from the Coldstream Guards. The Quays, Town Centre Shrewsbury, Shropshire (0743 364051). Today, 10am. £7, concs £5-15.

□ Southport flower show: One of the country's top flower and horticultural shows, plus entertainments for all the family, including fireworks on Aug 21. Victoria Park, Southport, Merseyside (0704 533133 ext 2308). Thur to Aug 22, 10am-8pm. £6-25, concs £5-15.

A very blessed monk

My friend Jeremy Sorensen was recently awarded the British Empire Medal. This was a mistake. Anything less than a peerage grievously undervalues the man. Lord Sorensen of Minsmere has a certain ring to it.

Jeremy — I cannot write of him as "Sorensen", still less as "Mr" — was warden of Minsmere bird reserve in Suffolk for 18 years.

Minsmere is an important place in my personal mythology, as faithful readers of this will know. This has been the case for years but it became doubly true after I spent a year researching a book on the life of Minsmere bird reserve. I worked alongside Jeremy throughout: the project would have been impossible without him, and without him, my own view of birds — nature — life — would be very different.

Fabulous bird, Jeremy would remark, as we partook of the Slimmers' Lunch (chip butty and a pint of Murphy's at the Eel's Foot). Generally, the bird would be a house sparrow foraging at our feet for chips. But sometimes it would be one of Minsmere's famous avocets.

Avocets seemed literally fabulous creatures to me as boy: beasts of myth on which I would never actually gaze. The avocet was one of the great early stories of conservation: a bird that had gone extinct in Britain was now breeding again in darkest Suffolk.

Since then, they have thrived. When I first went to Minsmere and looked across the famous saline lagoon, the Scrape, and saw gannets on for 100 avocets pacing about, sothing the waters with their absurd upturned bills, it was as if I were looking at a field of unicorns: fabulous.

Jeremy went to Minsmere via the wallpaper trade. He

Minsmere, and I was wiser than I knew. It was, above all, what I might call Jeremy's affinity for habitat that impressed me. The relationship of bird to landscape is the crucial part of avian conservation. Jeremy showed me why, of two ponds the same size, one will attract more breeding birds than the other: why this woodland ride will bring in nightjar and this woodland glade woodlark.

It was in woods that I saw Jeremy at his best: for you rarely see birds in a wood. You hear them. Jeremy "can tell birds from the intake of breath before they start to sing", said one writer. It was Jeremy who unlocked the secrets of birdsong for me: I have had joy of that gift every day of my life since then.

The Monk of Minsmere took early retirement last year, and went on to work full-time for the Jehovah's Witnesses. This was a startling move to many, and one much regretted by many more. But a person must seek his own destiny, and I cannot find it in my heart to go against any decision he makes. He has given me a book and a pair of ears: anything he does is all right by me.

And Minsmere remains. It is now in the hands of Geoff Welch, who is already taking important steps to improve this splendid place still further. The watch-tower of conservation is in good hands.

SIMON BARNES

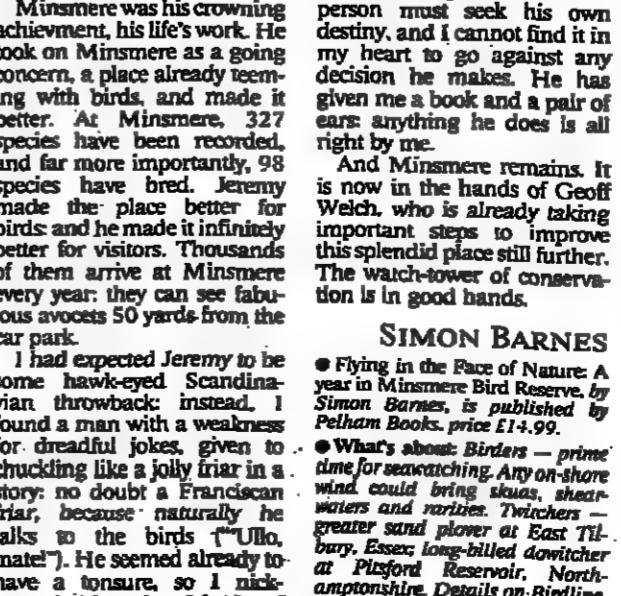
● Flying in the Face of Nature: A Simon Barnes, published by Pelham Books, price £14.99.

● What about Birds? prime time for searching. Any on-shore wind could bring shearwaters and rarities. Twinkles greater sand plover at East Tilbury, Essex; long-billed dowitcher at Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire. Details on Birdline, 0898 700222.

managed a string of 24 shops, but then threw aside some and sensible career plans and went into conservation.

Minsmere was his crowning achievement, his life's work. He took on Minsmere as a going concern, a place already teeming with birds and made it better. At Minsmere, 327 species have been recorded, and far more importantly, 98 species have bred. Jeremy made the place better for birds and he made it infinitely better for visitors. Thousands of them arrive at Minsmere every year: they can see fabulous avocets 50 yards from the car park.

I had expected Jeremy to be some hawk-eyed Scandanavian throwback: instead, I found a man with a weakness for dreadful jokes, given to chuckling like a jolly friar in a story, no doubt a Franciscan friar, because naturally he talks to the birds ("Ullo, mate"). He seemed already to have a tonsure, so I nicknamed him the Monk of



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Living art of lieder writing



Brigitte Fassbaender: she enjoys a challenge

LIEDER is alive and well and still being written. The 65-year-old Munich-born composer, Wilhelm Killmayer, has just completed three song cycles of late Hölderlin poems (EMI CDC 7 54431 2) which are given performances by Christoph Preßgärtner and Siegfried Mauser as clear and direct in their appeal as the music itself.

These late poems are as little anthologised, as little known as Killmayer's own music is here. Both are deceptively guileless: Killmayer enhances the acoustic rather than the semantic functioning of Hölderlin's verse not by distorting or undercutting, but by associating with it. Melodies — and there are plenty of them — follow instinctively the roll and rise of the verse's inflection, while harmony points and surprises in the minimal yet winsomely crafted accompaniments.

As the three cycles move from almost *faux-naïf* settings about the seasons, through poems written for specific occasions, to the utopian visions of the future, the wordsetting becomes ever more bleak and oblique.

The high writing for the tenor voice, its momentary melismas, and the luminosity of the piano writing in the first cycle recalls the sensibility of Britten (and also Britten's own performances, with Pears, of Schubert). As words drop into long pools of silence, "... Haus... Wiedersehen... Sonne der Heimat..." it is Germany's own post-Romantic inheritance which makes itself felt.

Yet it is always hard to pin Killmayer down. His writing is determinedly non-serial, non-Expressionist. "To me, the music of the future will not be complex, but transparent like air," wrote Killmayer. There is plenty here, in this two-disc set, with which to fill the lungs.

THERE is rather less, though, on Brigitte Fassbaender's latest enticing recording of *Lieder Lieder* (Decca 430 512-2); in fact, its only drawback is its shorfall. With songs and singing like this, less than 60 minutes is simply not enough.

Fassbaender has spoken of enjoying the challenge of the almost operatic mode of expression which is required to match the virtuosity of the piano writing. She always excels in recreating music which pushes to the expressive extreme of its own language and, with Jean-Yves Thibaudet's accompanying, this recital, framed by the "Liebestraum" and "Die drei Zigeuner", is no exception.

Most revealing, and most enjoyable though, are the latter, sparer songs, many of which are seldom given an airing in recitals. The six short lines of "Und wir dachten der Toten" ("And we remembered the dead"), for instance, glare like a Munch scream, and the fragrant minimalism of "Blume und Duft" and of "Einst" look forward to the distilled imagery of Hugo Wolf.

HILARY FINCH

Spoken like a woman

What, I asked myself again and again while reading Victor Erofeyev's *Russian Beauty*, will the author credited with restoring the erotic voice to Russian literature be like in the flesh? Blushing at the intimate stream of consciousness in which he indulges through his lascivious courtesan heroine, the question of how a mere male could imagine and convey half of the experiences, dreams, doubts and alienations he describes in his first novel plagued me. Was he one of those disturbing, frankly rather creepy types, who try to mine the souls of women they meet in order to play a sophisticated literary game with sensibilities different to their own?

I was relieved to find this expert on the internal feminine world has brown eyes twinkling with devilment rather than debauchery, is happily married and just "blessed with a good ear for the way women talk once you have that voice in your mind, imagination does the rest."

He has written a remarkable book and he knows it. "It must be good, because everyone in Russia hates it, which is always a sign of progress," he says. Erofeyev is a man who jumps in with both feet, he loves a good row and managed the dubious feat of being thrown out of the Writers' Union twice in one decade. At a dinner for Ronald Reagan given by Gorbachev in 1988, he was seated next to Yigor Ligachov, the notorious henchman and, in what he insists was a momentary lapse rather than a calculated jibe, asked him whether he wouldn't prefer to be back in Siberia than in government in Moscow. "I only meant that Siberia is much prettier," he recalls, and you can almost believe him.

His reputation as *enfant terrible* aside, Erofeyev is one of the best writers to emerge from the cupboard of talent jammed firmly shut until Gorbachev's cultural liberalisation. Even these days he remains something of an outsider. *Russian Beauty* may rail at the corruption of the communists, but it is equally biting at the expense of the sanctimonious dissidents and of their enclosed world.

In an intellectual climate of feverish restoration, he preserves a distance from the great writers of the 19th century. "They are like my grandparents," he says. "I admire them and love them and I want to emulate them but that does not mean that I want to drink the same beer or eat the same soup as them. They traded in a kind of hyper-moralism which I find too pressing for our times. In the new, free Russia it is important to create anew, to have reference to old traditions while rupturing them a little too."

His heroine Irina is a symbol of the Sovietised Russia he has known, bedded down into a regime alien to her nature and even prostituting her own desires by accepting its rules, but ultimately possessed of moral dimensions and grandeur of spirit which exceed the limitations of the world around her.

His own background is far from typical for a radical writer. Erofeyev *père* was Stalin's French interpreter and personal assistant to his foreign minister Molotov. "I grew up in a world of thick carpets and dachas, housekeepers and drivers. It was only as a teenager that I saw what Soviet life was really about and the crass contrast with my own experience was a great creative spur to me."

As a student in the Seventies, he hated the pall of orthodoxy which had been cast over Soviet writing and decided, as he puts it, "to make my own little bomb to create some light". The explosive device was a *Samizdat* magazine of new writing entitled *Metropol* and published in an edition of 12 in 1979. It was ill-received by the KGB who promptly arrested him

and threatened him with prison if he did not sign a document refuting the views expressed in the collection. When he refused, his father, by now an ambassador in Vienna, was recalled to Moscow. "It was a terrifying but a liberating moment," says Erofeyev. "For all of his training and acceptance of Stalin's ways, something snapped in my father that day and he stood by me."

The punishment was a Kafkaesque job in the foreign ministry where the former ambassador and confidant of Stalin was obliged to sit at a desk every day for four years without once receiving a piece of official mail or a telephone call. He simply sat there reading *Pravda* all day — perhaps the most sophisticated punishment of all. Victor and his wife were kept under surveillance, his publications were limited to critiques of other writers' work and plays written under pseudonyms.

He describes the arrival of Gorbachev as "like a miracle" and believes that, in the heat of the immediate post-communist period, we are apt to be too hard on the last Soviet leader. "He was a very appealing character to me because he had both a political and a metaphysical dimension. As a politician he was a product of his system and of course, he made mistakes in the reform process, but even his mistakes were guided by fate in that, one after another, they hastened the fall of communism in a peaceful way."

He is sanguine about the future of his country. He believes Boris Yeltsin to be a burly, robust defender of basic freedoms and hopes the rest will follow in time, albeit in a haphazard, Russian way. "The most important thing is that we have opened the windows of our stuffy country and that we can breathe normally again," he says. "It is unrealistic to expect 70 years of dictatorship to be followed by perfect democracy. I can buy a hundred different periodicals, see any play I like and laugh at the government if I wish. Think of how far we have come in a little time, and marvel."

● *Russian Beauty* is published on Monday by Hamish Hamilton (£9.99)



Erofeyev: "We have opened the windows and can breathe normally again"

Menace is taken to the brink of madness



Matthew Scurfield, Cesar Sarachu, Annabel Arden and Antonio Gil Martinez

Conners conned

Six Degrees of Separation
Comedy

Kittredges: Flan (Paul Sheld) is an art-dealer desperate to extract two million dollars from a South African collector (Gary Waldhorn), and Flan's supportive wife Ouisa (Stockard Channing). These two are also co-artists of a sort, and Guare is absolutely right to locate them in the art world where artistic worth and monetary value are faithfully con-

fused. "Are these rich people?" Paul asks, in the flashback to the start of his dizzy climb towards grandeur. "No," comes the reply. "Hand to mouth on a higher plateau."

To this plateau Paul aspires, and like some latter-day Liza Doolittle, he does it from the outside in, aping the accents of the well-to-do, their gestures and conversational concerns, posing as the son of Sidney Poitier and a college friend of his victims' children. Unlike Liza his motives appear to be envy, but like her the style he apes seems capable of permanently changing the person within — a tribute to the imaginative power that Paul hymns so eloquently.

But Paul's initial blankness is a dramatic contrivance. Charming, wistfully played by Adrian Lester, he is given too little material to motivate the character's sudden craving for the high life.

Outside this hollow, however, the play offers many rewards, chief of them Channing's revelation of Ouisa's disconcerted heart, perhaps changed forever by her angelic villain. He has spun his way into her cloistered life, plucked at her social conscience, enchanted with his amazing grace and vanishes into the New York penal system, untraceable because she does not know his real name. This is Paul's tragedy but Channing's performance makes you feel that it is also hers.

In one sense, of course, his personality has to be presented as blank. It is the empty canvas on which he paints the composition that literally dazzles his willing victims. Chief of these proves to be the

Stockard Channing her performance is rewarding

JEREMY KINGSTON

BRUNO SCHULZ was a Polish Jew, a writer and handicrafts teacher who was shot dead in 1942, perhaps by a rival of the SS officer who had taken him under his protection. His odd, troubled tales have been compared with the novels of Kafka and the paintings of Chagall; but any theatregoer who still remembers the productions of his fellow-Pole, the late Tadeusz Kantor, will be indebted to Schulz and are stylistically akin to the adaptation of his short stories now passing through the Nostalgia.

Theatre de Complicite is the company responsible, as it was for the version of Durrell's *The Heat* recently seen at the same address. If you are not familiar with this increasingly fashionable outfit, do not

be put off by the pretentious name. That is French, but the language mostly English, and the imagery international. A thin, pale boy is alone in a vast shabby room, sorting out books. One of them attracts his attention. He reads, smells, even kisses it, only to freeze like a hare sensing danger. There is a stamp of feet on grave.

Both *Wielopole Wielopole* and *The Dead Class* — those old men with white, haunted faces obsessively pacing the schoolrooms of their youth — were indebted to Schulz and are stylistically akin to the adaptation of his short stories now passing through the Nostalgia.

Since this character is eventually shot, he is presumably meant to remind us of Schulz, but he is also Joseph, protagonist of the stories, notably *Street of Crocodiles* itself. Narrative clarity is not that tale's strong point, and even those who know it may find some of the evening confus-

ing. But a plot of sorts is just about discernible. Joseph (Cesar Sarachu) is painfully rediscovering a lost past: the mother (Annabel Arden) who always remained aloof, the earthy, angry maid (Lilo Baum) who ran the household, the father (Matthew Scurfield) who lost his mind and ended up staring forlornly into space.

This last figure, a master-drafter closely modelled on Schulz senior, is the main focus of Joseph's despairing nostalgia. As in the stories, he fusses over the ledgers, philosophises in the grand East European manner ("for too long the perfection of God's creativity has paralysed our creative instincts") and raises birds in the attic. As Complicite stages it, eggs suddenly start dropping through the ceiling onto the dinner table. Adela stalks grim-faced upstairs, and suddenly the stage is full of flapping, screeching, falling bodies.

Scenes of hubbub and hav-

oc often occur. Joseph instructs

a class in woodwork, only to see the desks torn apart. Customers feverishly dance about the family shop, everybody screams and scatters as lightning flashes and a terrifying black figure scuttles across the stage. Finally, a phalanx of people in funeral attire grab an anonymous figure, half-man, half-bird, and hit, hammer and boot him to death.

We are becoming used to Complicite's derring-do, and there is certainly plenty of that here. Simon McBurney, who directs, performs imaginative marvels with chairs, umbrellas, swathes of cloth, white light, and, not least, Sarachu's strikingly vulnerable face and wounded looks. But by the end something more substantial has been suggested. This is a world where mere menace may at any moment escalate into madness: Schulz's disintegrating world, maybe our world, too.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

When he left the Bristol Old Vic 20 years ago, the director told him: "In the 1930s you'd have made a fortune. But your face is all wrong for the present. And you speak proper English. That's not fashionable now."

Today he is one of the world's best known actors. Who is he? Read The Sunday Times Review tomorrow

Red, white and easy to do

Tomatoes and eggs are the perfect ingredients for casual meals in the sun, says Frances Bissell, the Times cook



WITH the dog days of high summer upon us, small meals, snacks and grazing food are what we want to eat most of the time, rather than formal meals. Timbales become a little more relaxed, and who cares if the bowl of tomato salad and hard-boiled eggs you serve at noon is a late breakfast or an early lunch?

Food that needs no cooking, or which cooks in the minimum time, appeals at the moment. Fish cooks quickly; eggs cook even more quickly and make ideal summer food, served hot, warm or cold, in salads or flans, or combined with other flavoursome ingredients. I have included some of my favourite egg dishes today, which can be served at any time of the day and are almost as easy to prepare for a crowd as for oneself.

Poached eggs with tomatoes uses my other favourite summer food; this dish is not unlike the Spanish *pisto manchego* and the Portuguese *moqueca*. The first also uses peppers in something like a ratatouille, the second includes bread.

Bread and tomatoes have an extraordinary affinity. Good, chewy bread and ripe, sweet tomatoes make the ultimate summer treat, and we have a good chance of being able to enjoy them now. Not only are there Italian plum tomatoes in the shops, but old-fashioned garden varieties, with nostalgic names such as Ailsa Craig, are being sold in supermarkets, after years of tasteless tomatoes from both home and abroad. There is really no point to a tomato unless it has a pungent, just-picked, "green" smell, a tough, red skin and juicy sweetness.

Garlic and extra virgin olive oil are refinements to this perfect combination of refreshing, fragrant, satisfying ingredients. Almost everywhere that tomatoes are grown, there is a local version of bread and tomatoes, and I have included some of the best. I am not



Bread and tomatoes

Hobz biżżejt (Maltese version)

Slice a loaf of country bread, or cut a ciabatta in half horizontally. Halve some ripe, juicy tomatoes, rub these over the cut side of the bread, and put them in one side. Pour some extra virgin olive oil into a shallow dish, and season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Dip the bread in, cut down, and then cover it with tomatoes, which will need to be sliced again or chopped. In Malta chopped capers, olives, mint and anchovies are sometimes added to the *hobz biżżejt*.

Pa amb tomàquet (Catalan version)

This is also identical to the *pan* served in Valencia as *pan Valenciana*. And in Liguria (Italy), it is called *pan bagnat* (bathed bread). There it is made very special with the light, fruity oil of the region. In order to get a proper scraping of garlic on the bread, it is a good idea to lightly toast or grill it on one side. Cut a garlic clove in half, and rub it over the rough surface. Then pile sliced or chopped tomatoes on top, press down, salt and pepper lightly, and then trickle on the olive oil. You can

also crush the remaining garlic and add it. As with all versions of bread and tomato, it is best left, if you can bear to wait for at least 15 minutes, to let the juices seep into the bread. You can eat it with a knife and fork, as an open sandwich, or clamp another garlic and oil-ointed slice on top, and eat it as a two-bander. It is easy to appreciate why these are known as kitchen-sink sandwiches in the southern states of America.

Tomato padding

(English version)
(serves 6)

2lb/900g tomatoes
8-10 slices firm white bread with crusts removed
sea salt
freshly ground black pepper
extra virgin olive oil
sherry vinegar

Peel the tomatoes, and cut them in half. Set a sieve over a bowl, and put the tomato skins in it. Squeeze in all the seeds and pulp. Chop the tomato flesh and put it in another bowl. Rub the pulp and skins

through the sieve to extract maximum juice and flavour. Pour half the resulting liquid out to the tomatoes. Taste the mixture, and then add just enough salt and pepper to season. Mix the remaining tomato liquid with olive oil and sherry vinegar, using 3-4fl oz/85-110ml in all, with rather more oil than vinegar. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Cut the bread into wedges, dip into the dressing, and line a 2pt (approx) pudding basin. Spoon in the chopped tomatoes and cover with more bread. Cover the pudding with food wrap or foil, put a weight on top, and refrigerate for six to eight hours or overnight. To serve, turn out on to a chilled plate, decorate with herbs, and serve with more dressing or a creamy dressing full of chopped herbs. I prefer to keep the purity of the tomato flavour in the pudding and serve herb-flavoured accompaniments. Others might prefer to mix fresh basil, chives, tarragon or garlic with the tomato. The pudding also works well with a filling of

chives and purées of peas or beans mixed with summer savory are all combinations worth trying.

Poached egg in tomato sauce

(serves 4 to 6)

1 large mild onion
4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1lb/580g tomatoes
2 bay leaves
some basil stalks
salt, pepper
6 free-range eggs
fresh basil

Peel and thinly slice the onion, and sweat it in the olive oil until soft. Use a large, heavy sauté or frying pan. Meanwhile, blanch and peel the tomatoes. Halve and remove the seeds and roughly chop. Add to the onions, together with the herbs and a little seasoning, and cook until you have a rich tomato sauce. Remove the herbs. Make six depressions in the surface of the sauce, and slide an egg into each. Sprinkle a little more olive oil on top. Cover and cook on a gentle heat until the eggs are just set. Tear

up basil leaves, and scatter over the eggs and tomatoes. Serve from the pan, or carefully slide into a warmed earthenware dish.

Eggs Casino (scrambled eggs with vegetables)

(serves 4)

1tbsp olive oil
1 celery stalk
1 carrot
12 spring onions
6oz/170g mushrooms
6oz/170g bean sprouts
6 eggs
soy sauce

Heat the oil, and peel and trim the vegetables. Slice the celery on the oblique, shred the carrot, cut the spring onions into diagonal pieces, and slice the mushrooms. Toss in the oil, celery first, then the carrots a minute or two later, then the onions, mushrooms and bean sprouts, blanched. Beat the eggs with a teaspoon of soy sauce, and pour over the vegetables. Turn with a spatula until just beginning to set. Serve immediately, with a little more soy sauce, if liked.

Simply the best

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

BRUCE OLDFIELD

Cooking first began to interest me 15 years ago, when people were frequently inviting me round for meals. I somehow got into the habit of arriving a bit early and heading straight for the kitchen to watch what was going on.

My ex-partner and good friend Anita Richardson was very much my mentor at first — she's a brilliant cook. As one who has an enquiring mind, I'd constantly be asking: "How do you do that? What is that, why is that done?" I have to find out about things. Even at restaurants I want to know exactly what it is I'm eating and how they achieved the taste.

I prefer cooking simple

things. I can't make soufflés, for example. Well, I suppose I could — I firmly believe anything's doable if you try — but the point is I don't want to make soufflés. I don't like show-off food any more than I like show-off clothes and show-off people. What I do like is good, ingredients simply cooked.

I particularly admire the cooking of [Anton] Mosimann. OK, some people might say Mosimann isn't exactly simple, but I disagree. What he does is simple in that

the main ingredients aren't messed about with.

I keep saying to him: "I've got to come and spend some time in your kitchen and you can show me things" and he keeps saying, "Yeah, well, do it", but then somehow one doesn't ever have the time.

As I'm the sort of person who always likes to be on the go, I find cooking very relaxing. Spending a Saturday afternoon preparing dinner or Sunday lunch for friends is perfect. I mean, I'm not thinking about frocks for a change.

I do everything in a very methodical way. The table is laid simply, with white Wedgwood china and silver cutlery. I've been collecting this bone-handled stuff for years from a Welshman who rings every now again and says: "Ere, Bruce, I've got ten knives for you." I've now got so many bone-handled knives and forks, all different designs, that I'm always scrabbling around to find six that match... except that sort of thing doesn't really matter, does it?

I'm lucky working in Knightsbridge. It means I can shop at Harrods Food Hall. I think it's fabulous. Then there's the wonderful fish shop, La Pêche in Walton Street SW3, which I pass every evening to get to my car. I buy a lot of fish — simple fillets or steaks — and make a sauce to go with them.

I guess I follow trends. I'm definitely cooking Italian at the moment, lots of lentils, lots of grilled vegetables. And because I'm always looking after my weight, it's good from a diet point of view as well.

My flat in Battersea overlooks the river and it's particularly nice sitting on the balcony with friends after a meal, watching the sun go down. I can get about six on my balcony, which means there's not much room to

move. And there's always music softly wafting in the background, usually English 20th-century, Vaughan Williams and Britten, lyrical stuff like that.

I never eat puddings, though I'm not so selfish that I don't sometimes whip up a fruit tatin. I like something sweet to finish a meal, a choccy or something, though just one is enough. To me, the best part of a dinner party is when people have eaten and they're all drinking wine or brandy, sipping coffee, nibbling cheese or a bit of fruit... it's all done and I can relax, too.

As I'm an early riser, I usually get people to come at eight, and we finish by 12. I don't like eating late, it's not good for you. If people don't want to go home, I'll probably go upstairs to bed. It may seem pointed but my friends know by now that I'm fairly direct.

Bruce Oldfield: never eats pudding

Bruce Oldfield's Fish Dish

(any resemblance to Anton Mosimann's recipe is purely intentional)

4 slices of cod
2tbsp sherry vinegar
2tbsp chopped capers
2tbsp diced red and yellow peppers
2tbsp chopped spring onions
1tbsp flat-leaved parsley
12 stoned and chopped black olives
3 slivers finely chopped chilli pepper
1 crushed clove of garlic
salt, black pepper

Put all ingredients except fish into a bowl with five tablespoons olive oil and marinade for one hour. Pre-heat grill and lay seasoned cod fillets in a shallow, ovenproof dish with two tablespoons water. Grill for four minutes, or until cooked. Plate the fish, separating flesh slightly, and spoon mixture on top. Serve with grilled peppers, yellow and green courgettes.

Interview by Paddy Burt
• Bruce Oldfield designs clothes for the rich and famous. He was awarded an OBE in 1990 for Services to Fashion.

TIPTREE
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Brandy bounty: deep in southwest France, this rich, sunbathed landscape is the domain of the House of Janneau

Southern amber nectar

Five generations of one family have devoted themselves to Armagnac

T he House of Janneau is France's oldest producer of Armagnac. Five generations of Janneaus have succeeded Pierre Etienne Janneau, the founder of the firm, who built the first cellars in 1851.

Janneau Armagnac is produced in Gascony, in southwest France. It is made by the slow distillation of white wines produced in a strictly limited area comprising the greater part of the Gers department, and parts of Les Landes and Lot-et-Garonne. In all there are 20,800 hectares of vines in the three production areas of Bas-Armagnac, Tenareze and Haut-Armagnac; the best of the wines used for distillation come from the first two. The

main centres are

Eauze and Condom, home of the House of Janneau.

Originally Armagnac was distilled in classical "pot" stills, but a single continuous process was invented in 1801.

Today, however, in 1972 the

pot stills were reintroduced,

producing finer, lighter brands

and now the House of

Janneau blends the results of

the two methods.

From the still, the Arma-

gnac is aged in hand-made oak casks, where the flavour of the oak is suffused into it, giving the Armagnac its distinctive aroma and beautiful amber colour. The period of maturation in oak is determined by the cellar master.

Once maturation is completed, blending between brands and varieties commences, and the blend or "coupe" is born.

Only eaux-de-vie produced

and blended in the legally defined Armagnac production area can carry the name Armagnac.

There are three styles of Janneau. Janneau VS is a blend of five brands that have been matured for an average of five years. It is splendid as a digestif or as a base for longer mixed drinks or cocktails. Janneau VSOP (Very Special Old Pale) is the most popular style, which is a blend of fine Armagnacs that have been aged for approximately 12 years in oak casks.

Janneau XO is a classic Armagnac containing brandies that have been aged for over a generation. It is full of character, reflecting the true flavour of Gascony.

TODAY The Times, in association with Janneau Armagnac, is offering readers the chance to win a luxury weekend trip for two to the House of Janneau in the delightful region of Gascony.

The winner and a partner can choose the time of their visit, which will include a look at the traditional production process.

The first prize includes return flights from Gatwick to Bordeaux, a bottle

of Janneau XO and the chance to enjoy dinner in the distillery as guests of Etienne Janneau.

Ten runners-up will each

receive a bottle of finely aged Janneau VSOP.

How to enter: Answer the

three questions on the right,

then send your answers on a postcard with your name,

address and daytime telephone number to: The Times/Janneau Armagnac Competition, 11 Whittemore Street, London, EC3B 7NG.

Entries: The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over.

Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd, Janneau Armagnac, their families or agents are not eligible.

Entries must be received by August 25, 1992. The editor's decision is final.

Times competition rules apply, available on request.

QUESTIONS

1 How many different distilling methods are used in the production of Janneau Armagnac?

2 What type of wood is used for the hand-made casks?

3 In which region of France is the House of Janneau?

Rules: The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over.

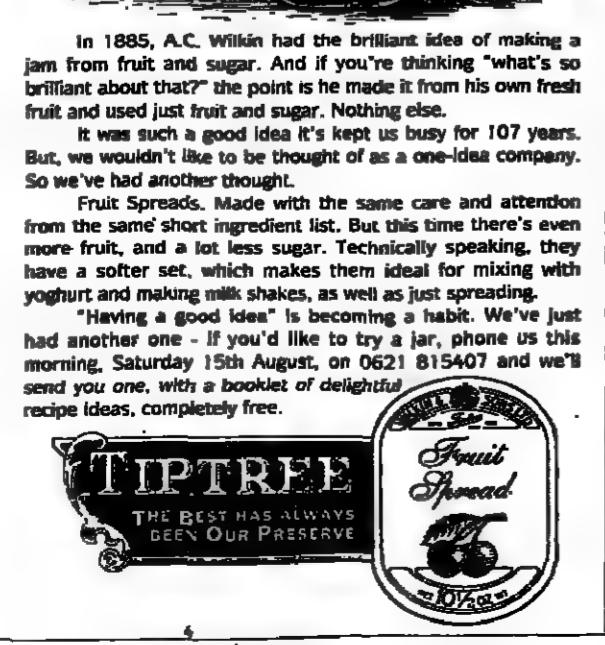
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107 YEARS AGO
WE HAD A GOOD IDEA
WE'VE JUST HAD ANOTHER ONE



Over the counter: British tradition is strong in a Manchester cheese emporium, where local produce is the speciality. By Deirdre McQuillan

Proud of their curds and ways

Winding through Didsbury following the Wilmslow Road into Manchester, there are the usual plastic facias on what were originally small Edwardian shops, pizza parlours, exhaust filters, "supa saver" centres. Then suddenly, something different. In the window of number 706 are three huge Lancashire cheeses, looking as round and alluring as the Graces, with a discreet notice saying they are on promotion at £1.99 a pound.

Arthur Axon, the shopkeeper, has no trouble explaining their differences. "The one on the right is a sharp cheese called Leigh Toaster, made with cooking in mind. The one on the left is a new Lancashire, a single acid cheese with a crumbly texture. In the middle is Lancashire, made on a farm in the old way, by mixing one-day and two-day-old curds. It comes from Sandbach's and is semisoft cheese with a flavour of butter."

"I have never wanted to run a trendy cheese shop, somewhere that would cater only for connoisseurs," Mr Axon says. "If anyone leaves my shop feeling their taste was not good enough, or that we'd looked down on our noses at them for not buying expensive cheese, I would be very ashamed. I have firm opinions on how any cheese ought to be, but if some people think Lancashire should crumble when cut and others that it's best put on Hovis and toasted, they have a right to their view. My job is to get whatever customers want, but buy the best. I even stock Edam — a very good Edam."

But Mr Axon's story is not one to comfort pedlars of plastic-packed mediocrity. What has made him a patently happy man, and his shop, The Cheese Hamlet, such a success, that he now has a second home in Florida, is traditional British cheese. The amount he sells should confound those who say that distinctive

matured cheese is just a minority taste.

On a middling week The Cheese Hamlet handles three truckloads of unpasteurised Cheddar made by the Keen family at Wincanton. That is a weight of at least 1600lb. The cheese is 16 months old when it arrives at the shop and will often spend another month maturing in the stockroom. It sells for £1.12 a pound. In Christmas week last year, customers bought half a ton.

Mr Axon has stocked this Cheddar since the shop opened 19 years ago, and it is his best-selling cheese by a long chalk. "Keen's is a Cheddar you develop a passion for. Customers come back week after week for it," he says.

There was such apathy towards specialist enterprises when Mr Axon started The Cheese Hamlet that no cheese wholesaler would send Cheddar up to him. So he and Fran, his wife, went on a weekly round calling on the Applebys at Haworth for their old-fashioned Cheshire, the Duckets at Wedmore for Caerphilly, and the Keens.

Twenty years ago Mr Axon was a baker and the Didsbury shop was intended to sell bread. "But my wife said, 'You know how much you love cheese, perhaps we should have a cheese shop instead.' So here we are. We have made a bit of a name for ourselves and people like our range and our prices, so we keep busy."

The name of the shop came to him when reading an old encyclopaedia which said the best British cheese came from "small hamlets" known for their expertise. It has become apt because Mr Axon himself has acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge, and regularly judges cheese competitions and gives lectures.

It would take a large lorry to stock The Cheese Hamlet nowadays: the narrow shop is packed with 120 British and

continental cheeses on one side of the counter and a queue of customers on the other. What attracts the eye are discs and columns of cheeses, some with marbled interiors exposed, some with soft white crusts, others growing lichen-like moulds on their skin or carrying the fine impression of cheesecloth.

More shades of white and cream than have ever been marketed by Dulux blues and greys, faded greens, verdigris and deep yellows; the colours that can be made from pure milk curd are gorgeously assembled on the shelves. Northerners will not buy pink-tinted Cheshire, but are fond of Double Gloucester and Leicester turned orange with annatto dye. Green sage cheese is an old Derbyshire and Lancashire speciality, and the chocolate ripple effect a new invention, a mix of Irish cheddar with Porter beer.

Mr Axon believes there are, at most, 40 professional cheesemakers in Britain. It is



Arthur Axon at The Cheese Hamlet: "I have never wanted to run somewhere that would cater only for connoisseurs"

not unusual for one to do a stint making his own cheese, training the farmer or a student, then going on to spend time at a factory-sized dairy (which is what creamy means) trying to improve its techniques. Whether standards remain high depends

on the aptitude of the pupils. By professional, Mr Axon means salaried. The cheesemakers who use their own farm milk are just as skilled and knowledgeable. Making butter and cheese used to be women's work: the recipe for Stilton, for example, was passed down from mother to

daughter. But when today's true farmhouse cheesemakers, women or men, have to stop, they may find there is no one in the neighbourhood interested in taking over. "It is a lot less work to pour milk into a tanker than to make cheese every day," Mr Axon says.

There are other reasons why

cheeses come and go, or change, such as trouble with milk quotas or a move from raw to pasteurised milk. Shifts in standards are not appreciated at The Cheese Hamlet.

"My customers are not conservative in the sense that they won't try new things," Mr Axon explains. "They love to

do a bit of sampling. But whatever it is, they like it to stay consistent. They are quick to notice any change in quality."

Cheddar, Lancashire,

Cheshire, Stilton and the

Dales cheeses are Mr Axon's

top sellers, although he also

keeps a good selection from

France and regularly has

£10,000 worth of Parmesan

on the premises.

Brie sells quickly, and there

are notices explaining that

cheese should be unwrapped

and brought up to room

temperature to taste its best.

"I would love to have a shop where there was no glass between the customer and the cheese as in France, where you can reach across and touch the cheese," Mr Axon says.

"But I wouldn't get away with it." Does he mean the customers would not like it?

"I'm sure they'd love it; no, I mean the health inspectors."

There is also charcuterie, bacon, olives, preserves and condiments, but he restricts these in case the shop starts to look like a delicatessen.

"Cheese is what we are known for, and I want it to stay that way," he says.

• The Cheese Hamlet, 706 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 1DW (061-434 4781). Open Mon-Wed, 8.30am-5.30pm, Thurs, Fri, 8.30am-6pm, Sat, 8.30am-4.30pm.

Tipples without the tipsy

Jane MacQuitty rounds up the best of the low-alcohol wine bunch

The taste of summer '92 is fizzy, fun and fruity — and has little to do with wine or alcohol. Reduced alcohol fruit wines are on sale everywhere this summer, and represent virtually the only buoyant bottles in a seriously static wine market.

Making a choice from the reduced, low- and no-alcohol wine shelves in your local supermarket is a confusing business. Illogically and unfairly, the only bottles on these shelves appear to bear the

word "wine" are those in the no-alcohol category of less than 0.05 per cent, and in the low-alcohol tier immediately above it, registering between 0.05 and 1.2 per cent alcohol. The big name in alcohol-free wines is Eisberg, launched in 1985. But despite massive improvements to the taste of all these low strength categories, Eisberg is almost as ersatz and boiled-sweet-like as ever. If you are determined this summer to avoid alcohol at all costs, the answer may be Masson, Light from California, introduced in 1986, with 0.49 per cent alcohol and a raisiny, stewed, vaguelycot-like flavour.

But my advice is to avoid the no- and low-alcohol entirely, and step straight up to the much better tasting reduced alcohol tier (between 1.2 and 5.5 per cent alcohol). Despite their superior quality none of these bottles is allowed to use the word "wine", or even "low alcohol", on its label. It pays therefore to study the small print to see whether the bottles you are buying are wine, or merely wine-based. Phrases such as "partially fermented grape must", as found on the Pétillant de Listel bottles, indicate that the product within is wine. Other producers simply add the word "light" to their usual full-strength name, such as: Lambrusco Light and Golden Oktober Light.

Low-alcohol fruit wines also fit into this large, reduced alcohol category, although of course you won't find any of those words on their labels. Instead, look out for names like strawberry fizz, Tesco peach, raspberry or whatever. Also belonging to this reduced alcohol group are the sometimes wine-based 5 per cent alcohol cocktails with popular names such as Buck's Fizz and Kir Royale (Marks & Spencer has the widest range).

While purists won't bother with these strange, sweet, low or no-alcohol bottles, at around £1.99 each (due to 70 per cent lower duty than on full strength wines), they will go down well with sporting folk and teenagers, offering rather more kick and flavour than the soft drink alternatives, and with those who hate the palaver of mixing drinks. The best of them are listed on the left.



Best buys

• Lanson Melba Valley Low Alcohol Chardonnay (1.2 per cent) Safeway £2.59 About the closest the low alcohol wine producers have got to the real thing. Aged in oak, with a powerful, overripe pineapple scent.

• Goldener Oktober Light (3 per cent) Waitrose £1.89

Inoffensive, pure, sweet, grapey-baileys-like flavours put this bottle way ahead of the "fizzy" confidet, low strength wines of old.

• Goldener Oktober Light (3 per cent) Safeway and The Victoria Wine Company £1.69, Oddbins £1.75

Pleasant, spicy, grapey fruit with an almond-like finish. Not oxidized, or ersatz as it once was. Forget the red.

• Sainsbury's Bucks Fizz (5 per cent) Sainsbury's £1.99

Not to everyone's taste, but a sweet and perfectly palatable summer concoction.

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WHERE TO WALK

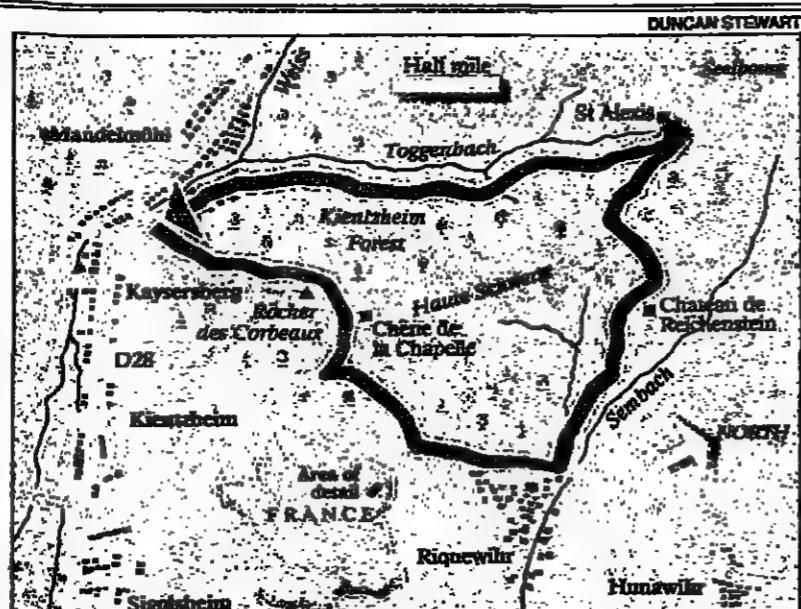
ALSACE is splendid walking country for everything from striding over mountain tops to a riverside stroll on the plains. The Club Vosgien (4 rue de la Douane, 67000 Strasbourg, tel. 88 32 57 96), the local ramblers' association, has organised more than 9,000 miles of marked footpaths and its walking maps are available in bookshops, newsagents and tourist offices all over Alsace. The Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord publishes leaflets about nature rambles in the northern Vosges woodlands, and organises *Circuits sans Bagages*, six to 12-day holidays that include accommodation, meals and having your luggage transported to each overnight stopping place on the planned route. Their offices are in La Petite-Pierre, itself a Clapham junction for delightful forest and valley walks (Maison du Parc, 67290 La Petite-Pierre, 88 70 46 55). The Association Départementale du Tourisme du Haut-Rhin, Hôtel du Département, 68000 Colmar (89 23 21 11) can supply a leaflet enabling you to book similar services for parties of five or more using the Grande Randonnée paths (the GRS and GRS3) in the Upper Vosges, and the Office du Tourisme de la Vallée de Munster (Place du Marché, BP21, 68140 Munster, 89 77 31 80) organises group hikes lasting from half a day to eight days or more in their area using cabins and *fermes-auberges* for meals and accommodation. Finally the Office National des Forêts (2 rue de l'Hôpital Militaire, 67084 Strasbourg Cedex 88 36 31 58), offers full and half-day guided walks, with commentaries in French or German.

Walking the GRS: Vosges to Jura is a guide to some 350 miles of footpaths, about half of them in Alsace, published in English in Robertson McCarter's *Footpaths of Europe* series at £11.95.

• Wine and distillery visits: All along the Route du Vin winemakers offer *vente directe* (farm-gate sales) and *dégustation* (wine tastings). Most of the co-operatives and many of the larger *négociant* houses offer tours lasting half an hour to two hours. Distilleries can also be visited for tastings of *kirsch* and other *eaux-de-vie* in, for example Colmar (Wolfsberger), Albe (Adrian, Meyblum), Ribeauville (Griselbrecht), Holl and Lapoutroie (Mielo, Miscaul).

■ Ballooning: Hot air balloon trips are offered by Aérovision, 4 rue de Hohland, 68140 Munster (89 77 22 81); Fletcher Tourisme, 59 rue de l'Il, 67390 Ohnenheim (89 92 75); and Tournaline, 2 rue d'Arras, 67000 Strasbourg (88 61 00 40).

■ Boating: Cruises are available from Strasbourg on the Rhine (Alsace-Croisières, 12 rue de la Division Leclerc, 88 32 44 55) or canal (Canal-Tour, BP8 67026 Strasbourg



For my own walk, though, I finally chose a route linking Kaysersberg and Riquewihr, two of the most popular and most visited villages of the Route du Vin. The walk is among 11 routes in a free translated booklet, *Proposals of Walking Tours in the Region of Colmar*, available from the tourist office in Colmar. The path starts from the Badus beside the much-photographed 15th-century fortified bridge in Kaysersberg. Follow signposts to the 11th-century château, from which you will have an even better view of the stork's nest on the Badus roof. From the château the path climbs up, following the blue cross waymarks, up beneath the 2,087ft Rocher des Corbeaux to the Château de la Chapelle.

There leave the blue cross path, turning right to follow yellow triangle markers through the forest to descend through the vineyards to the fortified medieval town of Riquewihr. You can

WHAT TO DO

Cedex, 88 62 54 98). Boats can be hired from Strasbourg/

Schiltigheim or Saverne for cruising on a 300km canal network:

Nichols Yacht, 11 rue de l'Orangerie, 67703 Saverne (88 91 34 80).

• Canoeing: Comité Départemental de Canoe-Kayak du Bas Rhin, 15 rue de Génève, 67000 Strasbourg (88 35 27 20).

• Cycling: Cycles can be rented at principal railway stations. The Association pour le

Développement des Vosges du Nord, Maison du Parc-Château, 67290 La Petite-Pierre (88 70 46 55)

organises cycling and mountain-biking tours on the lightly trafficked roads of the regional park, with luggage transport from hotel to hotel.

• Fishing: Licences can be obtained from tourist offices and town halls.

Fédération Départementale des Associations de Pêche et de

return by the easy though unmarked Chemin du Vignoble via Kientzheim, but those with energy should leave Riquewihr by the 13th-century Porte du Dolder tower and the Obernai to climb up the Sembach valley toward the ruins of the Château de Reichenstein.

Beyond the castle the path rejoins the blue cross marked route coming up through Haute-Schwarzwald. One and a half hours' climbing brings you to the farm restaurant of St Aloys and its neighbouring chapel, at a height of 2,300ft, beneath the Seeburg. Follow yellow discs down through the Toggenbach valley and the Kientzheim forest to re-enter Kaysersberg by the Mandelbühl.

This route and others can be followed on the Club Vosgien's 150-mile *Carte des Vosges* (88 70 45 05). The walk is not hard and takes about five and a half hours.

Pisciculture, 1 rue de Nomény, 67000 Strasbourg.

• Golf: There are 18-hole courses at Illkirch-Graffenstaden near Strasbourg (88 61 72 29) and Chalampé, Mulhouse (89 26 07 86).

• Hang-gliding: At Le Hohwald and other sites on the Route des Crêtes. Information about schools and equipment rental: Comité Départemental de Vol Libre, 35 rue Jean-Martin, 68200 Mulhouse (89 59 18 39).

• Riding: The Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord can supply a *Randonnée, tourisme, équestre* information pack detailing farms (*fermes-équées*) in the Northern Vosges which offer riding holidays with self-catering accommodation: Maison du Parc-Château, 67290 La Petite-Pierre (88 70 46 55). Other information is available from the Association Alsaciennes de Tourisme Equestre, 78 rue de l'Oberhardt, 68000 Colmar (89 79 38 48).

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Beijing, perhaps also making a visit to the Terracotta Army in the city of Xian.

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DAY 6 Zhanjiang Now an important southern seaport, Zhanjiang was, for centuries, a place of exile and as such has not been subject to the modern influences that have shaped life in other large Chinese cities. The coast is attractive with excellent snorkelling.

DAY 7 At Sea.

DAY 8 Xiamen Xiamen (Amoy) was a prominent Ming trading port in the 11th century, and later a place of refuge for Ming Rulers fleeing from the Manchu invaders. See the Galunggong Island and the Nanputuo Temple and the Jimi school village.

DAY 9 Fuzhou Mentioned by Marco Polo, the 6th century city of Fuzhou is situated 25 miles upstream from the mouth of the Min River. See Santai Island, where foreigner first established themselves when Fuzhou became an unequal treaty port in the 19th century, also the thousand year old Yongquan Monastery and West Lake Park.

DAY 10 At Sea



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ALSACE

A past scarred by brutal wars of possession is barely discernible today in the least French of all France's regions, Alsace. Robin Young savours its flower-filled harmony

If one could clutch at any hope for eventual relief from the miserable massacre that has brutalised Bosnia-Herzegovina, the best source would be the north-eastern edge of France.

Alsace, wedged between the Voges mountains to the west and the Rhine to the east, has been fought over for centuries and torn, like a hare between lurchers by the rival powers of France and Germany. Yet today it is the most welcoming, charming, picturesque and peaceful region to be found anywhere in France.

This is the least French of all the regions of France — travellers may notice how frequently villages in Alsace have twinned, not with villages in foreign countries, but with other places within *la France de l'intérieur*. Alsations call it:

There is no separatist movement to speak of in Alsace now. Yet despite official discussion (embodied in the post-war motto: "C'est chic parler français"), two thirds of the population still speak their own dialect, *Elsässisch*, a sing-song variant of German which is akin to the alemannic languages heard across the Rhine in Baden and in Switzerland.

The wine, in tall bottles like those the Germans use (some of them employing Riesling, the Germans' best wine variety), have the extra distinction and authority that comes from thoroughly French winemaking. And, as part of its dual heritage drawn equally from Germany and France, Alsace is as famous for beers as for wines. The *département* of Bas-Rhin grows hops as well as sunflowers, and

Kronenbourg, Schütz, Kanterbrau, Mutzig, and other Alsatian brews account for about half France's beer production.

Convivial eating places can be found in Teutonic proportions, but prepared with French savoir-faire. In place of flowery French the menu is filled with blunt, uncompromising and earthy-sounding names: *press-kopf* (brown), *schiffala* (smoked shoulder of pork), *spätzle* (browned noodles), *baecklauff* (mixed meat stew with onion and potato), and *kougelhopf* (moulded sponge cake flavoured with almonds and raisins).

Yet, the dining room smells French, even where the dishes' names sound German. There is one possible exception: the French press has suggested that the pungently aromatic local

European Community than *tricolores* flying in Alsace, and when you get to the German border, the border post is as likely as not to be unmanned, or not to exist at all.

That it was not always so is quickly seen in the north of Alsace, where the hills are lined with the remains of *château* *forts*, stubs of red sandstone fortresses protruding above the trees like cigarette butts on rumpled baize. Along a 100-mile route winding from the frontier town of Wissembourg to the delightfully restful station verte of Birkenwald, south of Saverne, you can pass or visit no fewer than 25, most in various states of disrepair and decrepitude. The *Maison des Châteaux-Forts* in Obersteinbach tells their story in well-planned displays.

If you want to visit just one, the most astonishing is Fleckenstein, above the German border north of Lembach. The 12th-century castle's ruins merge with the natural rock to which they cling, and from which the lower chambers and subterranean passageways have been hewn.

More recent, and tragically famous, are the remains of the Maginot line, the supposedly impenetrable defences on which the French pinned their faith in the inter-war years, and which Guderian's panzers nimbly outflanked when the phoney war ended. At Four à Chaux, outside Lembach, visitors are led through the catastrophic concrete caissons where a garrison of 580 men lived like pit ponies, sequestered from day-light, through that anxious

The point remains the same. From a history full of terrors and travail, Alsace has emerged to enjoy the best of two previously warring worlds. The experience has made ardent and convinced Euro-idealists of the population. Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace, is now also the Council and meeting place of the European Parliament. You are likely to see more of the blue and gold starred flags of the

Best of both worlds: while

There are touristic routes devised for so many other things, see that one could return year after year, still make new discoveries, and never return disappointed.

In the quiet and less visited north, 300,000 forested acres constitute the Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord, once national park and nature reserve. Its headquarters are the castle of La Petite-Pierre, hill resort which makes a good centre for a relaxing holiday, both the Route des Châteaux-Forts and the Route des Eglises Anciennes, which links 18 of the most interesting old churches and chapels of the area. The church at La Petite-Pierre is a symbol of peculiarly Alsatian

Spoilt for choice dishes

WHERE TO EAT

Natzwiller: *Auberge Metzger* (88 97 02 42). Jolly little country inn, where menus cost as little as FF152.

Ottrott-le-Haast, Obernai: *Winstub Fritz*, 8 rue Vigneble (88 95 80 81). Picture postcard restaurant, with a plane-tree shaded terrace behind the village church, offering extremely good value menus at FF190 and 125.

Mittelbergheim: *Winstub Grig*, 49 rue Röland (rue du Vin) (88 08 91 37). Big helpings of mainly traditional fare in really rustic surroundings. FF105 menu warmly recommended.

Kintzheim: *Auberge Saint-Martin*, 80 rue de la Liberté (88 92 04 78). The FF100 menu could be onion tart, *choucroute garnie*, munster cheese and apple tart. A snap.

Baldenheim: *La Coqueline*, 45 rue de Sélestat (88 83 32 22). Traditional cooking lightened with originality, charming welcome and friendly service. Menus from FF148.

GETTING AWAY



residents of Kaysersberg tread a European path, its vineyards enjoy the happy union of German grapes and French expertise, perfectly reflecting the region's richly varied dual heritage

tian religious tolerance one of the *églises simultanées* where Catholics worship in the chancel, while Protestants use the rest of the church.

Alternative northern routes to follow include excursions round the Pays de Hanau, exploring the curious hilly bump jutting westward into Lorraine around Sarre-Union known as *l'Alsace bousse* ("Alsace's humpback"), around the pottery villages of the Outer-Forts, the spa resorts (Morsbronn, Oberbronn, and Niederbronn-les-Bains) or, most attractive of all, along a daisy-chain of picturesque villages taking in Seebach, Hunsbach, Hoffen, Leiterswiller, Obernai, Leiterswiller, Betschdorf, Surbourg, Kutzen-

hausen, Merkwiller-Pechelbronn, Soultz-sous-Forêts, Hohwiller and Kuhendorf.

To the west and south of Strasbourg routes across the lush Kochersberg, Alsace's granary, include a Route du Tabac, and a Route de la Choucroute traversing the cabbage-growing area which provides the basis for Alsace's national dish, piles of pickled cabbage to be decked with pork and sausages, and linking 29 restaurants which serve it all year round.

In central Alsace there are further routes devised for visiting ancient religious sanctuaries, old silver mines, kirsch-making areas, and a cheese road through the Munster valleys. In the deep south the

pastoral Sundgau, south of Mulhouse, offers the Route de la Carpe Frite, centred on Altkirch, promoting fried carp from the local stewpools.

Follow any of these routes in summer and you will find yourself conducted through a succession of beautiful villages and small towns with an often eye-straining blaze of flowers in the gardens and courtyards and at every windowbox. How, one wonders, do the French decide that Hunsbach, Mittelbergheim and Hunswiller should be officially categorised as *plus beaux villages de la France*, when so many of their neighbours are just as delightful?

In winter the road becomes a cross-country ski-trail, linking small resorts where there are also chair and drag lifts and pistes for downhill skiing.

Farms in the Upper Vosges

have a tradition of providing

Virtually the only way to escape the flowers is to take to the hills on one of the two most popular of all Alsace's many tourist routes. The Route des Crêtes runs along the western side of the mountain ridge on Alsace's perimeter, from Cernay to Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, through some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes in France, where chamois and neatly patterned black cows graze the *chaumes* (mountain pastures) above the tree line.

In winter the road becomes a cross-country ski-trail, linking small resorts where there are also chair and drag lifts and pistes for downhill skiing.

Farms in the Upper Vosges

inexpensive meals and accommodation for tourists, and there are some 65 officially approved *fermes-auberges* along the route. Call in at least once for a *repas maraître* (milkmilkman's meal) of *tourte de la vallée* (pot pie with onions and eggs), *schiffale-roigabraggeld* (smoked pork with bacon, onion and potato gruel) followed by munster cheese, and creamy *fromage blanc* and *tarte aux myrtilles* made with locally gathered blueberries.

I have left to last the road that almost all visitors to Alsace inevitably follow, at least for part of its length. That is the Route du Vin, which runs for 75 miles through the vineyards at the foot of the Vosges from

Marienheim, west of Strasbourg, past Colmar, to Thann. There are more than 100 villages and towns along its length, not one of them less than delightful. No one should miss Obernai, Mittelbergheim, or Hunswiller, whose Centre de Reintroduction des Cigognes has successfully restored storks to the rooftops of surrounding villages, such as Kaysersberg and Turckheim. Finally there is charm-filled Eguisheim. I take that for my favourite village in all Alsace, though it is a very close fought thing. How good to have only that to fight about, now that Alsace is so beautifully and prosperously at peace.

Next week: Paris



lower power: heading for lunch in the lanes of Kaysersberg

more modest meals are also available in the hotel's *winstub*, Colmar: Au Fer Rouge, 52 Grand-Rue (89 41 37 24). Strick Fulgraff's restaurant occupies one of the most beautiful timbered houses of Colmar's old town. Schillinger, handsomely but more modestly at 64 rue Stanislas (89 41 43 17),

is also seriously good. Prices from about FF1350. Eguisheim: Le Caveau d'Eguisheim (89 08 89). So beautifully situated, opposite the village fountain in my favourite of all Alsace villages, that you might think it would be a tourist trap. No such thing. Menus from FF140-40.

But there are a number of attractive manoirs and châteaux in the region requiring modernisation, priced from £280,000 for anything that is habitable.

Prices slip further west in the wet and woody Vosges mountains. Here you can buy a dilapidated stone-built cottage, on the edge of a forest and not far from the ski-slopes, for about £40,000.

As well as good road and rail connections to Paris, Frankfurt, Basel and Zurich, there is a direct train service from Colmar to Strasbourg (3½ hours).

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Few British estate agents handle property in Alsace. Further details about properties in the region may be obtained from Françoise Kott of local agents Colmar Immobilier, 13 rue Gobier, BP 160-68000, Colmar, France (89 41 23 43).

WHERE TO STAY

LUXURY

• **Winstub: Château d'Isenbourg** (89 49 63 53). Among the vineyards just off the N83, 37 rooms from FF650-1,300, and three apartments from FF1,450. Tennis, fitness centre, swimming pools indoors and out, and excellent buffet breakfast served on the lawn. Relais & Châteaux.

• **Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines: Abbaye La Pommerey**, 8 avenue du Marché-Foch (89 92 07 84). Small luxury hotel (six rooms, four apartments from FF850-1,800) in a former Cistercian abbey at the foot of Haut-Koenigsbourg.

• **Oberrœd: A la Côte d'Alsace**, 3 rue Gail (88 95 07 00). 43 spacious rooms from FF1500-740 in superb buildings round an interior courtyard and a lovely garden.

• **Amaghof: Résidence Les Violettes**, Thierenbach (89 91 19). Collection of historic cars adds interest in this quiet and peaceful 24-room hotel (FF140-710).

• **Ribeaupierre: Château St-Vincent** (89 73 67 65). 12 rooms, FF595-840, and three suites, among the vineyards.

• **Moderate**

• **La Petite-Pierre Au Lion d'Or**, 15 rue Principale (88 70 45 06). At the centre of the Vosges regional park. Some of the 35 rooms (FF320-380) have balconies overlooking the valley, and the hotel has a swimming pool.

• **Le Wissensheim Hotel Le Moulin** (89 96 27 83).

19-room hotel with no restaurant, eight miles from Strasbourg on a branch of the Ill (FF275-375).

• **Ottrott-le-Haut: Obernai: Best Site, place Eglise** (88 95 80 61).

Fine inn at the foot of Mont Sainte-Odile, with 15 rooms, good restaurants and a panoramic terrace serving menus from FF95.

• **Colmar: Le Maréchal**, 5 place Six-Montagnes-Noires (89 41 60 32). Some of the 20 comfortable and well-equipped rooms in this 16th-century building overlook the river Lauch (FF450-1,400).

• **Marbach: Hostellerie Saint-Bernard**, 25 rue Marbach (89 76 92 15). Stone and timber hotel in a floriferous valley, with 17 comfortable rooms, and good dining (FF300-695).

INEXPENSIVE

• **Birkweiler: Au Chasseur**, 8 rue du Cimetière (88 70 61 22). Excellent country inn, with a swimming pool, in an idyllic village south of Saverne. M. Gass is a good cook, which makes demi-pension a bargain. 26 rooms, FF250-320; half-board FF260-330.

• **Gimbelfhof: Hôtel Restaurant Gimbelhof**, 10 km north of Lembach (88 94 43 58). Exceptionally cheap lodgings at this rustic meeting place. The eight rooms cost FF180-200, and demi-pension only FF145.

• **Wissenden: La Cour du Bâti**, 37 Grand-Rue (89 73 46). Spacious self-catering studio and apartments from FF380 a night for two or three in high season (FF300 later), in one of the best medieval towns on the Route du Vin.

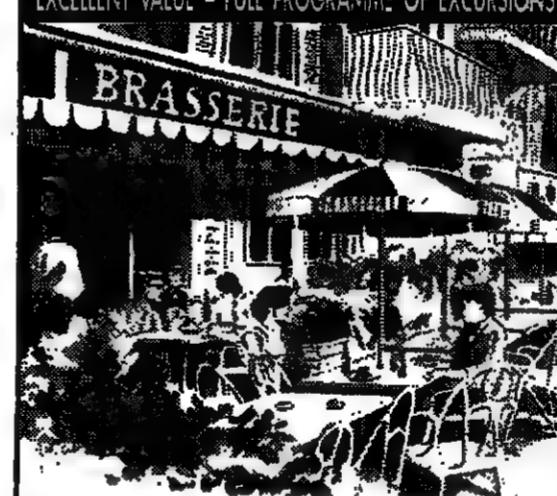
• **Arzheim: Auberge d'Arzheim**, 30 rue Sponeck (89 71 60 51). The ten rooms (FF215-295) are quiet and well equipped, and the cooking is good. Demi-pension FF235-295.

• **Froehingen: Auberge de Froehingen**, 2 route d'Illfurth (89 25 48 48). All beams and geraniums at this restaurant with seven rooms (FF270-330) just south of Mulhouse.

• **CAMPING**

• **The most attractive camp sites are: Heidenkopf, Niedersoultz-les-Bains (88 09 08 46); Les Hêtres, Bendorf (89 40 34 72); Municipal des 2 Höhnen, Laberach (89 49 83 72); Municipal, Mittelbach (89 63 77); La Mine d'Argent, Moosch (89 82 30 66); Les Sources, Wettolsheim (89 75 44 94).**

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At home with the artists in residence

Home from home: Sir Roger and Lady de Grey in Kent

Anyone seeing the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Roger de Grey, in a dignified fashion about his splendid headquarters off Piccadilly might be surprised to see how he sometimes stars the day in the country.

Not one to waste time standing around on BR platforms, Sir Roger waits until the train is almost upon his local station in northwest Kent before tearing out of the house and spinning across the fields to catch it. As often as not a similarly fleet of foot Lady de Grey drops into a seat beside him.

Thus do the art world supremo and his consort leave the cottage that has been their Garden of England retreat for almost 40 years.

Sir Roger, president of the Royal Academy since 1984, bought the 18th-century brick and tile cottage for £1,000 in 1956. He was no stranger to the area, having spent childhood holidays in the "big house" next door, the home of his maternal aunt. When she died he bought the cottage, originally a pair of one-up-one-down workmen's dwellings, from her estate.

At the time it was less a question of doing up the house than of undoing the unsympathetic modernisation of former occupants. Now it bears the de Greys' no-fuss, no-frills stamp with polished chimney floors, whitewashed walls and exposed beams.

Sir Roger's position at the Royal Academy means that he has to be in London at least four days a week.

Sir Roger loves his work at the RA and finds it "extraordinarily interesting", but admits it does intrude on his own creative efforts and the time he is able to spend at the cottage. First and foremost Sir Roger is a working artist and is happiest painting in his studio in Kent, a converted barn, which he shares with his wife, Flavia Irwin, whom he met when they were both pupils at Chelsea School of Art. "It is here that I am at my most relaxed," he says. "I adore being in the country."

Despite all this he still manages to give the occasional lesson at the City and Guilds of London Art School, where his wife teaches one day a week.

The studio is midway between his aunt's old home and his cottage, separated from the latter by a field full of apple and cherry trees, including one gnarled old wild English candlestick for just two shillings.

and he sometimes stays in the couple's London home in Kennington. But as often as he can he heads back to Kent, and makes a point of being there on Fridays and weekends.

The simplicity of his cottage is in marked contrast to the Georgian splendours of Burlington House as the life he leads there. In London his diary is filled with engagements for months in advance. His schedule gets so busy that a couple of years ago he instituted breakfast parties at the Royal Academy in an effort to cram even more events in.

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JONATHAN DAWSON

works on the abstracts which she paints in acrylic on unprimed duck cloth. Sir Roger starts a little later, "after Flavia has warmed the place up a bit". At any one time he might be working on up to ten of the landscapes he paints in oils. Sometimes they take time off to work in the garden, where they grow vegetables and raspberries.

None of the De Greys' pictures hangs inside the cottage - "we don't like looking at our own work," he says - but there are plenty by family, friends and other 20th-century English and European painters and sculptors. They include Sir Roger's uncle, Spencer Gore, his predecessor at the Royal Academy, Sir Hugh Casson, and the Falklands war artist, Linda Kissin. "I keep on collecting things like little bits of sculpture, prints and drawings," he says. "I'm just as happy looking at small things as I am looking at great masterpieces, and I love mixtures of things and styles."

Sir Roger's favourite piece is an 18th-century green lacquer long-case clock and there is a pair of Jacobean chairs inherited from his mother which run a close second. But the piece that he most often points out to people is the first thing he ever collected when, as a young art student, he picked up a delicately turned 18th-century wooden English candlestick for just two shillings.

Despite all this he still manages to give the occasional lesson at the City and Guilds of London Art School, where his wife teaches one day a week.

The studio is midway between his aunt's old home and his cottage, separated from the latter by a field full of apple and cherry trees, including one gnarled old wild English candlestick for just two shillings.



Where painting is not a chore: Sir Roger and Lady de Grey at their no-frills country retreat

Heap of the week

Melville Castle

Secret
enchanted
ruin

A LARGE hoarding on the front of Melville Castle announces "Major development opportunity". This is precisely what it should not be. However, the particulars are worth obtaining, if only to ogle at the artist's impression of the baronial-style addition, approved as a new 50-bedroom annexe to the enchanting Robert Adam-style castle.

The one drawback is that the new Edinburgh ring road lies across the Esk Valley about half a mile from the house. But in every other way the setting of Melville is magical. Here, just six miles



Stripped bare: Melville

from the centre of Edinburgh, is a secret valley, entirely enclosed by hanging woods.

The castle was built in 1786-91 to the designs of James Playfair. Outside it is a toy castle, with a tall centre and lower wings. The interior was restrained but elegant neo-classical, but all the fittings have been stripped out. The castle's demise was sudden, and recent. About five years ago it was acquired by a local businessman, but is now being sold by the mortgagor, the Bank of East Asia. Offers of £75,000 are invited for the building and 50 acres. Midlothian council has served a reprieve notice on Melville, listed category A and so eligible for grants.

MARCUS BINNEY

• Further information: Graham S Sibbald (031-225 1559)

071-481 9313

FAX 071-782 7828

History and drama in unspoilt beauty



Buyer's France
THE AVEYRON

The Aveyron is an unspoilt mountainous département between the Lot and the Tarn, in southwest France. Green and fertile, it is criss-crossed by rivers and full of lakes and waterfalls. It has an impressive historic capital in Rodez, 500 medieval castles, some ancient walled towns and villages, dramatic gorges, and the limestone caves where Roquefort cheese is ripened.

Sailing, canoeing and white-water rafting are popular pastimes, and there is good riding, hill walking and fishing; you can even ski in the Aveyron, with three resorts in the Aubrac mountains.

Despite its many attractions, the

20 acres of land. The first floor is used for living accommodation, the ground floor for storing wine.

You can buy a large stone farmhouse for renovation, with a barn and well, but without mains water or electricity, for just £15,000. But be prepared to spend at least another £20,000 to make it habitable. Fully restored, with converted outbuildings, suitable for *chambres d'hôte* or *gîtes*, the same property might fetch £80,000.

A renovated village house, with two or three bedrooms, modernised kitchen and bath, exposed beams and original fireplaces, costs from about £35,000. Large country houses in good condition, with

some land, cost from £50,000.

The pretty stone-built house pictured left is in a small hamlet a few miles from the beautiful hill-top village of Najac, southwest of Rodez. It is for sale at £27,000, (including agency fees, through agents Sibbald, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 071-384 1200). The old house has been partially restored by its English owners but needs a new staircase.

The nearest international airport for the Aveyron is Toulouse, about two hours' drive; allow ten hours for the drive from Calais.

CHERYL TAYLOR

PLUS we offered small *rent-à-court* shop which gives sufficient profits from eight months season (which could be extended if required).

PLUS fully furnished 2 bedroomed property within the grounds with very good self catering letting performance. It all adds up to a clichéd life-style in splendid surroundings.

Offers over £185,000. Please owners who plan renovation for full details. 0479 821342.

SCOTLAND
WE OFFER A CHANCE TO GET AWAY TO THE BEAUTIFUL STRATH SPEY

A four bedroomed granite cottage with a garden with mature trees.

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DAUGHTER of Roderic: Newly built 3 bed house, 10 mins from town, 10 mins school. Weekends £100/week. £700/fortnight. £1,000/3 months. £2,000/6 months. £3,000/12 months. £4,000/18 months. £5,000/24 months. £6,000/30 months. £7,000/36 months. £8,000/42 months. £9,000/48 months. £10,000/54 months. £11,000/60 months. £12,000/66 months. £13,000/72 months. £14,000/78 months. £15,000/84 months. £16,000/90 months. £17,000/96 months. £18,000/102 months. £19,000/108 months. £20,000/114 months. £21,000/120 months. £22,000/126 months. £23,000/132 months. £24,000/138 months. £25,000/144 months. £26,000/150 months. £27,000/156 months. £28,000/162 months. £29,000/168 months. £30,000/174 months. £31,000/180 months. £32,000/186 months. £33,000/192 months. £34,000/198 months. £35,000/204 months. £36,000/210 months. £37,000/216 months. £38,000/222 months. £39,000/228 months. £40,000/234 months. £41,000/240 months. £42,000/246 months. £43,000/252 months. £44,000/258 months. £45,000/264 months. £46,000/270 months. £47,000/276 months. £48,000/282 months. £49,000/288 months. £50,000/294 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SUNDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

6.45 Open University: Plants — Problems with Water (558055) 7.10 Maths — Group Theory (5465968) 7.35 Energy Resources — Uranium (3618535) 8.00 Education — Time to Learn (6093697) 8.25 Something in the Air (8453448) 8.50 Playdays. For the very young (233697) 9.10 News and weather (2721351) 9.15 Summer Sunday. David Grant leads the singing live from Port Grimaud on the Côte d'Azur (s) (5234993) 10.00 Sign Extra. How do you Manage? (r) (73806) 10.30 Film: *The Colossus of Rhodes* (1960). In 260BC an Athenian scholar is put against the tyrannical King Xerxes. Starring Roy Calhoun. Directed by Sergio Leone (88500) 12.30 Countryfile. John Craven looks at rural, environmental and agricultural issues (1978264) 12.35 Weather (51646790) 1.00 News (72740622) followed by *Strictly for the Birds*. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has played a crucial role in protecting Britain's birds but some people claim that in the process it has persecuted innocent people. A *Countryfile* special report (2.00) 1.15 *Summer Sunday*. David Grant leads the singing live from Port Grimaud on the Côte d'Azur (s) (5234993) 1.30 Sign Extra. How do you Manage? (r) (73806) 1.35 Film: *The Colossus of Rhodes* (1960). In 260BC an Athenian scholar is put against the tyrannical King Xerxes. Starring Roy Calhoun. Directed by Sergio Leone (88500) 1.45 *Playdays*. For the very young (233697) 1.50 News and weather (2721351) 1.55 Summer Sunday. David Grant leads the singing live from Port Grimaud on the Côte d'Azur (s) (5234993) 2.00 Sign Extra. How do you Manage? (r) (73806) 2.30 Film: *The Colossus of Rhodes* (1960). In 260BC an Athenian scholar is put against the tyrannical King Xerxes. Starring Roy Calhoun. Directed by Sergio Leone (88500) 2.45 *Countryfile*. John Craven looks at rural, environmental and agricultural issues (1978264) 2.50 *Weather* (51646790) 3.00 News (72740622) followed by *Strictly for the Birds*. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has played a crucial role in protecting Britain's birds but some people claim that in the process it has persecuted innocent people. A *Countryfile* special report (2.00) 3.15 *Summer Sunday*. David Grant leads the singing live from Port Grimaud on the Côte d'Azur (s) (5234993) 3.30 Film: *The Grass is Greener* (1960). Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr are obliged to open their stately home to the public. The earl is surprised when one American visitor goes off with his wife but an English gentleman doesn't give up easily. With Robert Mitchum and Jean Simmons. Directed by Stanley Donen (406413). Northern Ireland. Gaelic Football: Donegal v Mayo 5.10 *Breakfast*, presented by Julian Pettifer. *Carole Stone* looks at *Countryfile* about the drama *Bad Girl* (Ceefax) (s) (74543) 5.55 Europe in Colour: *Fantasy Houses*. Tom Vernon searches for European style. He finds a house run on solar power in overcast Holland and a sculptured stone palace near Lyon crafted by a French postman (2.2784) 6.25 News with Chris Lowe. Weather (805239) 6.40 Songs of Praise from Looe in Cornwall, presented by Pam Rhodes. (Ceefax) (s) (645657) 7.15 The Two Ronnies. Vintage comedy from Messrs Barker and Corbett. With special guest Elaine Paige (r) (Ceefax) (802326)



A family affair: Ted Danson, Isabella Rossellini (8.05pm)

8.05 Film: *Cousins* (1989). Ted Danson and Isabella Rossellini play two cousins married to the wrong partners, who meet at a series of family gatherings and find themselves falling in love. Directed by Joel Schumacher (73983185) 9.50 News with Michael Buerk and weather (504177) 10.05 Heart of the Matter: *The Miracle Man and the Doctors*. The programme examines the phenomenon of faith healing. Presented by Joan Bakewell (654784) 10.40 *The Last Great Adventure — A Voyage into Living*. As part of the Columbus anniversary celebrations, 200 tall ships re-trace his route. The programme looks at the journey through the eyes of crew members who took video cameras. Narrated by Robert Powell (864158). Northern Ireland: Gaelic football highlights 11.10 *Doogin Howser MD*. American comedy series about a teenage medical genius working in a hospital. Starring Neil Patrick Harris (s) (197219) 11.35 *The Sky at Night*. Patrick Moore and Colin Ronan ask who invented the telescope (s) (420784) 11.55 *Weather* (566210)

SATELLITE

24/719 10.30 *These Were the Days* (62528) 11.30 *Travel Destinations* (65322) 12.30 *French Film* (62545) 1.00 *Playdays* (22323) 2.30 *Weather* (51646790) 2.45 *Countryfile* (22403) 3.00 *Our World* (51059) 3.30 *Those Were the Days* (2264) 5.00 *Live at Five* (70413) 6.30 *Rolling Report* (68054) 7.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly* (229568) 8.00 *Europe in Colour* (1960) 8.30 *Sport* (62521) 9.00 *Channel 4* (624235) 1.30 *ABC News* (631697) 12.30 *Financial Times Business Weekly* (77104) 1.30 *ABC News* (4980112-20) *Tarjet* (461104) 3.30 *Travel Destinations* (58549) 4.30 *Tarjet* (76272) 4.30-6.00 Beyond 2000 (25017)

SKY MOVIES
* Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
8.00 *Alien* (625208) 8.30 *The Witching Hour* (625197) 8.50 *W.C. Fields and Me* (1976) 9.00 *Sign Extra* 10.00 *Sign Extra* 11.00 *Sign Extra* 12.00 *Sign Extra* 13.00 *Sign Extra*

SKY NEWS

* Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
8.00 *Sign Extra* 8.30 *Sign Extra* 9.00 *Sign Extra* 10.00 *Sign Extra* 11.00 *Sign Extra* 12.00 *Sign Extra* 13.00 *Sign Extra*

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

* Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
8.15 *Golden Ponies* (1982) Australian gold rush adventure (609595) 8.15 Peter Robinson (1993, b/w) *Summer of 44* (1993) 8.30 *Sign Extra* 8.45 *Sign Extra* 8.50 *Sign Extra* 8.55 *Sign Extra* 8.55 *Sign Extra* 9.00 *Sign Extra* 9.15 *Sign Extra* 9.30 *Sign Extra* 9.45 *Sign Extra* 10.00 *Sign Extra* 10.15 *Sign Extra* 10.30 *Sign Extra* 10.45 *Sign Extra* 10.50 *Sign Extra* 11.00 *Sign Extra* 11.15 *Sign Extra* 11.30 *Sign Extra* 11.45 *Sign Extra* 11.50 *Sign Extra* 12.00 *Sign Extra* 12.15 *Sign Extra* 12.30 *Sign Extra* 12.45 *Sign Extra* 12.55 *Sign Extra* 13.00 *Sign Extra* 13.15 *Sign Extra* 13.30 *Sign Extra* 13.45 *Sign Extra* 13.55 *Sign Extra* 14.00 *Sign Extra* 14.15 *Sign Extra* 14.30 *Sign Extra* 14.45 *Sign Extra* 14.55 *Sign Extra* 15.00 *Sign Extra* 15.15 *Sign Extra* 15.30 *Sign Extra* 15.45 *Sign Extra* 15.55 *Sign Extra* 16.00 *Sign Extra* 16.15 *Sign Extra* 16.30 *Sign Extra* 16.45 *Sign Extra* 16.55 *Sign Extra* 17.00 *Sign Extra* 17.15 *Sign Extra* 17.30 *Sign 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BBC1

6.35 Open University: Soap and Water (5693931) 7.00 Maths — Heads and Tails (5570844)
 7.25 News and weather (8030738)
 7.30 Hello! Sports: Fun and games (1362196) 7.50 Babes: Animated adventures of a regal elephant family (1) (1375121) 8.15 The New Lassie: Snake Pit: Can the dog save another life? (1) (Ceefax) (8466912) 8.35 The Jetsons: An alien dog causes trouble (473776) 9.00 Parallel 9: Young people's entertainment magazine. The guests include Kylie Minogue and Betty Boo, Raymond Briggs and Mike McShane (s) (1976844)
 10.55 Film: Not the Moon by Night (1958) A lonely woman flies to Africa to marry a long-term penfriend, a game warden. He is away in the jungle chasing elephants but his disapproving brother is at home. With Belinda Lee, Michael Craig and Patrick McGoohan. Directed by Ken Annakin (9637573) 12.30 The Weatherman (7005009) 12.30 Grandstand: produced by Steve Hall. The line-up (3000) to alternate: 12.30 The Weatherman: Bob Wilson, Guy Linaker as the coaches of the 22 Premier League clubs; 1.00 News: 1.05 Golf: Highlights of the first and second rounds of the US PGA Championships from Bellview, Missouri; Racing from Newbury: live coverage of The St. Hugh's Stakes (1555). The Euroline Silver Trophy Handicap Stakes (2.25), the Ibb Bey Geoffrey Freer Stakes (2.55); 2.05 Touring Cars: the ninth round of the British touring car championship from Pembrey, Dyfed; 2.35, 3.05, 4.00 Bowls: the world outdoor pairs final from Worthing with news of the triples final; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.40 Final Score (7125197)
 5.10 News and Weather (5338738)
 5.20 Regional News and weather (9289738)
 5.25 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry quadruple bill (r) (9467641)
 5.50 Film: The Three Musketeers (1973): Swashbuckling comedy with Oliver Reed, Frank Finlay and Richard Chamberlain as the King's bodyguards trying to rescue the Queen of France's diamonds aided by the accident-prone D'Artagnan, Michael York. Directed by Richard Lester (Ceefax) (2300139)
 7.35 Dad's Army: First in a series of repeats of the classic Home Guard comedy. In this episode Captain Mainwaring and his platoon have problems when an enemy aircraft lands in the town reservoir. (Ceefax) (240134)



Deceptive: Joan Hickson follows a murder trail (8.05pm)

8.05 Miss Marple: The Body in the Library. Joan Hickson plays the super sleuth who proves, yet again, that appearances can be deceptive. In the typically English village of St. Mary's Mead, Miss Marple follows the clues and finds herself at the seaside with another dead body (r). (Ceefax) (s) (53180589)
 10.50 News with Mervyn Lewis (Ceefax): Sport and weather (1619318)
 10.50 Match of the Day: Desmond Lynam introduces highlights from the inaugural fixtures in the Premier league and other matches (104592)
 11.50 Film: A Fistful of Dynamite! Rod Steiger and James Coburn play a Mexican bandit and Irish revolutionary who believe in the power of dynamite. The unlikely duo are surprised by what they find in a bank vault. Directed by Sergio Leone. (Ceefax) (9723619)
 2.05am Weather (9685415)



King of the road: Elvis impersonator Scott Davis (10.40pm)

10.40 Video Diaries: Elvis — the Yorkshire Years. Scott Davis is an Elvis impersonator doing the pub and club circuit in the North-East. After glimpsing the bright lights in Orlando, Florida, he returns to Yorkshire, where the recession hits and bookings dry up. He decides on drastic action (105221)
 11.40 Golf: US PGA Championship. Third-round action introduced by Steve Rider from the Bellview Country Club, St. Louis, Missouri (638432). Ends at 1.30



ITV

6.40 Open University: Silicate Structures (5683554) 7.05 Maths — Group Theory (5577757); 7.30 Form and Function of Fossils (3640134); 7.55 Images — The Surface of Mars (1364825); 8.20 Ecology — Biological Control (8485047); 8.45 Putting It in its Place (4460202); 9.10 Education — Time to Learn (7145950); 9.35 Origin of the Solar System — A Theory (9295405); 10.00 Mantegna — The Triumphs of Caesar (2104979); 10.25 King Lear — Workshop (6585196); 10.50 Images of Desirability (540486); 11.15 Biology: Brain and Behaviour — Stress (1250589); 11.45 Patterns and Databases (1296239); 12.05 Learning from the Box (9009134); 12.35 Richard II — The Tragedy of King Richard II (5175573); 1.45 Introduction to Psychology (6115520); 2.16 Energy from Waste (58613467); 2.35 Living Circuits: Supporting Systems (5956399)
 3.00 Film: Woman of the Year (1941, b/w). Classic Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn battle of the sexes comedy. A liberated lady writing on international affairs meets a male chauvinist sports columnist and they fall in love. Directed George Stevens (6427397)
 4.50 Bowls: Live coverage from Worthing of the pairs and triples finals of the Woolwich world championships (60436234)
 6.30 Personal Details: Women, Architecture and Identity. Professor Stuart Hall looks at the role of women architects and at buildings designed by, and for, women (s) (196)
 7.00 News with Moira Stuart. Sport and weather (868554)
 7.15 Columbus and the Age of Discovery: In Search of Columbus. The final episode in the series. Columbus died in obscurity, discredited in his day. Today, different cultures have widely different opinions of his achievements (4490091)
 8.05 Film: The Smurfs. Martha Graham
 • CHOICE: This year's season starts with a celebratory programme featuring some of the work of Martha Graham, "a very magical person who inspired astonishing devotion", according to one of the former members of her dance company. Graham changed the whole direction of 20th-century dance and was still working until shortly before she died last year aged 97. She created nearly 200 dances and performed her first solo work in 1926 although, sadly, there is no film of her dancing at her peak. Most of the work performed here was given by her company in Paris last year. The finale is, appropriately, her last piece, completed in 1990, the truly marvellous Maple Leaf Rag to Scott Joplin's music. A fitting tribute to a great artist (s) (69488775)
 9.15 Encounters: Beautiful Lives.
 • CHOICE: Paul Pender's play about an imaginary meeting between two major literary figures — H.G. Wells and George Orwell — makes the best possible start to a new series from BBC Scotland entitled Encounters. This clash of intellects occurs in London during an air raid in 1941. We hear news bulletins, sirens sounding, bombs falling. But a different battle rages within: Wells has been angered by Orwell's attack on him in a literary magazine. This triggers a passionate and wide-ranging dialogue, which cools when a bomb falls close by. Wells's controlled fury is cleverly conveyed by Richard Todd while Jon Finch's husky Orwell could hardly be bettered. A nice moment occurs when Wells snaps at Orwell: "What do you know about truth? You work for the BBC." (Ceefax) (144825)

6.00 TV-am (8267842)
 9.25 Film: 14 Going on 30 (1987) starring Steve Eicholtz and Daphne Ashbrook. A schoolboy with a crush on his teacher finds a way of growing up quickly. He masquerades as a new teacher hoping to win the heart of the lady as well as changing some of the school rules he does not like. A Walt Disney fantasy tale directed by Paul Schneider (5588773)
 11.05 The Smurfs. More adventures of the little Dutch folk (r) (3554689)
 11.30 The Motorway Bike Show. Magazine for the enthusiast. Includes action from the 1990 BMF national championships (5689)
 12.00 The ITV Chart Show. The latest hits on video (s) (37202)
 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (72775318) 1.05 LWT News and weather (72774689)

1.10 International Rugby. Live coverage from Ellis Park, Johannesburg, of the return of South Africa to world rugby. The All Blacks play the first of three tests in their tour of South Africa (82161844)
 4.00 WCW Wrestling. Grunt, grapple and groan from the United States (4505047)
 4.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (5194554) 5.00 LWT News and weather (5305950)
 5.05 Cartoon Time (9201950)

5.15 Haggard. Comedy set in 18th-century England with Keith Barron as an impoverished squire. This week in train Charlie Ashburn comes to Haggard Hall looking for his daughter. With Paul Chapman and Anna McLaughlin. (Orade) (919080)
 5.45 Cockapoo. High-tech quiz show presented by Roy Walker (Orade) (958979)
 6.15 The Upper Hand. Feeble comedy series about a female executive employing a former footballer to keep house. This week an old girlfriend turns up and helps herself to what she fancies (r) (533650)
 6.45 Autumn Preview. A look at some of the programmes coming soon to ITV (615399)
 6.50 Film: Silver Streak (1976). The beginning of the winning partnership between Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor. George Caldwell meets Hilly, played by Jill Clayburgh, on a train from the west coast to Chicago. They find lots of satisfying ways to while away the journey until they are interrupted by a body going past the window. Directed by Arthur Hiller (88090115)

6.55 Assassination run: Sam Neill falls for Talisa Soto (9.00pm)
 9.00 Hostage. Sam Neill plays a hit man who changes his mind in this drama written by Arthur Hopcraft, based on the novel *No Place to Hide* by Ted Allbeury. With Talisa Soto. (Orade) (2370)
 11.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (668950)
 11.20 Phil Cool. Jon Glover and Sophie Thompson join the rubber-faced comic in Coventry (s) (393134)
 11.50 Spitting Back: Sketches from the 1991 series. (Orade) (713134)
 12.20 The Big E. Magazine programme for and about Europeans (s) (4495871)
 1.25 Rhythm 'N' Raag. Asian music magazine. Includes performances by the Ragga Twins and Arora (1248351)
 2.00 Budo Sot. The first of a three-part beginner guide to the martial arts (51413)
 2.30 New Music. Interviews and pop videos (59516)
 3.35 Indy Car Racing. Highlights from last year's Texaco/Havoline GP at Denver (9295264)
 4.35 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan with the latest news, fashions and sounds from the disco scene (s) (9161061)
 5.30 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rown (77239). Ends at 6.00am

6.00 Just for the Record (9201754) 6.00-6.30 Radio 4 News (8267842) 12.20 Call the Music (6239784) 1.20 Alfred Hitchcock: Presents (6652993) 1.50 Europe — in Profile (5473123) 2.00 The Hit Man and Her (9288773) 4.00 Videofashion (48893)
 4.30-5.30 The Big E (13784)
 5.45 HTV WEST
 As London except: 9.25 Film: Darby O'Gill and the Little People (Albert Sharp, Jimmy O'Dea, Sam Connery, Janet Munro) 11.15 Disney Cartoons (12575921) 12.00 News (8689)
 5.45-6.15 Border (r) (3557751) 12.00 Cineplex (32387) 1.20 Motor Sport Special (2211) 4.30-4.40 Cartoon (5648554)
 5.05-5.15 TWS News (535921)
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 4.30-5.30 The Big E (13784)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Joyce and the Wheeled Warriors (r) (435009) 6.25 Eurekka's Castle (r) (6519318) 6.55 Once upon a Time... Life (r) (5697757) 7.25 Blood Sweet and Glory (s) (5566641) 7.55 Trans World Sport (606115) 9.00 News Summary (6138573) 9.15 Radio 4 Morning Line (5250311)

10.00 Out of Sight. Second in the series about the lives of disabled children at the beginning of the century (r) (61844)

10.30 Australian Rules Football Action from down under (32912) 11.30 Quizbowl. The newspaper sports quiz: *The Times v. The Telegraph* (s) (9931)

12.00 Get Smart. Spoof spy series starring Don Adams (97196)

12.30 The Beverly Hillbillies: The Ballet. Last in the series (23009)

1.00 Film Stand In (1937, b/w). Leslie Howard and Humphrey Bogart in a satire on the Hollywood film business. Leslie Howard is an efficiency expert sent to investigate the finance of a struggling studio. With Joan Blondell. Directed by Tay Garnett (9361644)

2.40 Film: It's Love, I'm After (1937, b/w). Love triangle with Leslie Howard as the heiress who develops a crush on the matinee idol. Directed by Archie Mayo (3022952)

4.20 American Football — the Preview. Mick Luckhurst previews the American Bowl at Wembley between the Washington Redskins and the San Francisco 49ers (4507405)

5.05 Brookside Omnibus (r). (Teletext) (s) (6619196)

6.30 The Big 8. Knockout tournament to find Britain's best wheelchair basketball team. Sheffield Steelers v Telford Celtics. (Teletext) (s) (592)

7.00 The World This Week with Sheena McDonald. Includes an interview with the vice-president of Russia, Aleksandr Rutskoi. Plus: how the war in Bosnia is reported in Serbia (1405)

8.00 Kingdom of the Plains: Birds of a Feather. Several million African Quail. Finders will hatch within a few days if the conditions are right but they need 20 million insects or they die (Teletext) (7625)

9.00 Fellini Fiddles. Roma Burns. Documentary about the director and his vision of Rome in moral decay including interviews with the director, his screenwriter and lead actress (5738)



When in Rome: a jaundiced Marcello Mastroianni (9.30pm)

9.30 Film: La Dolce Vita (1960)

• CHOICE: Federico Fellini's giant study of decadence in modern Rome is given a rare television airing, preceded by a helpful documentary and followed by a critical discussion. This generous allocation of screen time is justified by a film that gained notoriety on its original release, saw its title pass into the language and is, still, more than 30 years later, a fresh and provocative piece of cinema. Marcello Mastroianni heads a superb cast as the gossip writer looking for the meaning of life through seven debauched nights and seven bleak dawns. The film was attacked by the Vatican for showing evil as a way of life and by ordinary Romans for denigrating their city. But this is Fellini's Rome, a place of the imagination where a helicopter flies overhead carrying a huge statue of Christ and Anita Ekberg has a nocturnal splash in the Trevi fountain (11308912).

12.45am Filmstars: *La Dolce Vita*. Francine Stock chairs a discussion about why *La Dolce Vita* is such a classic film (3570719)

1.30 Twilight Zone: Of Late I Think of Cliffordville (b/w). A captain of industry strikes a deal with the devil (6751413). Ends at 2.25am

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As London except: 9.25 Film: Darby O'Gill and the Little People (Albert Sharp, Jimmy O'Dea, Sam Connery, Janet Munro) 11.15 Disney Cartoon (12575921) 12.00 News (8689)

5.05-5.15 TWS News (535921)

5.45 HTV WEST

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5.45 SKY WEST

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5.05-5.15 TWS News (535921)

5.45 YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.25 Film: Darby O'Gill and the Little People (Albert Sharp, Jimmy O'Dea, Sam Connery, Janet Munro) 11.15 Disney Cartoon (12575921) 12.00 News (8689)

5.05-5.15 TWS